

German kidnap drama continues

HEISTERBERG (AP) — A former East German commando dubbed "the machete murderer" eluded police who caught his accomplice on Tuesday after the escaped convict led law officers on a crazed 30-hour chase. Repeatedly switching getaway cars and hostages, the two men seized headlines and broadcast time after kidnapping police officers, robbing a bank and racing through six states pursued by police sedans, vans and helicopters. In all, the two had seized eight people and used five cars, including one commandeered by waving a pistol at a television cameraman. His mobile phone gave the fugitives a chance to give live television interviews as they fled along the autobahn. Still at large was Raymond Albert, a 32-year-old former member of an elite unit of the East German army who had been sentenced to life imprisonment for strangling a tavern owner and cutting off the man's head. "We assume he is armed and highly dangerous," said local police spokesman Kurt Maier.

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Majlis frees soldiers to shoot

NICOSIA (AP) — Underlining the Iranian government's unease with worsening economic conditions, parliament Tuesday approved a bill allowing law enforcement officers to fire on demonstrators and gave them immunity if they killed anyone. The move follows a string of riots in nearly every major Iranian city over the past two years and a series of bombings and attempted bombings of Shiite Muslim shrines in which at least 26 people were killed. The bill approved by the 270-seat Majlis, or parliament, caps a government effort to give unprecedented powers to recently unified internal security forces and the "Basij." This is an armed paramilitary volunteer force of some 500,000 men recruited largely from among Iran's poor, who have been fiercely loyal to the ruling clerics. The state-run Tehran Radio said the new bill allows the use of firearms to "restore law and order during illegal armed rallies, at times of unrest and during illegal armed disorders and revolts." The radio did not mention whether there were any stipulations that law enforcement personnel could only open fire if they were shot at first. But the radio said that officers would be allowed to open fire on vehicles they suspected of carrying "stolen goods, narcotics, contraband or fugitives."

Jordan will hand over Jerusalem shrines to Palestinians when they reach final accord—Crown Prince

Regional development should be clearly oriented and implemented, Prince Hassan says

CASABLANCA (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday Jordan would hand over Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem to the Palestinians when an agreement on the city's final status is reached. "In the final status, when responsibility is transferred in full to the Palestinians, this responsibility (for the sites) will be transferred in full to those concerned," Crown Prince Hassan told a news conference at the Casablanca economic summit. "We cannot accept that we would one day have to relinquish the Arab and Muslim identity except to an Arab Palestinian identity and not to the Israeli occupier," Prince Hassan said. Under the declaration of principles signed in last year, the talks on Jerusalem are to start in May 1996, two years after the launch of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. When the negotiations on Jerusalem have ended, "we promise to hand over trust-

'Sustainable peace needs to address people's needs'

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday that peace in the region would never be corroborated unless it is benefiting all its peoples. Addressing the closing session of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit, the Crown Prince said the success of the Casablanca meeting in setting the general framework of economic development in the region emphasizes the importance of continued and sustained regional economic interaction. "I hope that we will be active partners in setting the stage for regional cooperation in trade and investments and helping to link this region's economy with that of the world," Prince Hassan said. "I seize this opportunity

to call for the Amman economic summit next year which was referred to in the Casablanca Declaration, and I hope that it would be held in the first half of the coming year when we expect that Middle East peace would have become comprehensive on all fronts," he said. "I hope to see interaction between the Amman and the Casablanca meetings and between them and the international financial and economic organizations," he said. "We are ready more than ever before to create an identity without any conditions and restrictions, an identity that would effectively contribute to the construction of a regional entity working for progress and prosperity," the Prince said.

Casablanca economic summit concludes with trade pledge

Jordan, Israel and Egypt set up joint bank; panel to study formation of regional development fund

Combined agency dispatches

CASABLANCA — An unprecedented Middle East economic summit ended here Tuesday with a pledge to seek ways of overcoming trade barriers after groundbreaking contacts between Israeli and Arab businessmen and leaders. The three-day conference, which was formally closed by King Hassan II, grouped more than 2,500 businessmen and politicians from Israel, Arab countries, Europe, Asia and the United States. The final declaration announced participants would explore ways to "overcome, as soon as possible, obstacles" to trade and investment "including boycotts." Israeli officials said earlier the summit marked the "unofficial end" to the Arab boycott imposed in 1951. The declaration also "noted favourably" the decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council to ease the economic boycott on Israel. The conference, which is to become an annual event, aimed to "build the foundations for a Middle East and



North Africa Economic Community which involves... the free flow of goods, capital and labour throughout the region." A committee of experts would examine the creation of a Middle East development bank, while a regional tourist board and chamber of commerce would also be created. The closing ceremony and King Hassan's speech were held up for an hour and a half after a last-minute row between the United States and Europe on who would head the proposed development bank. It was decided finally that the dispute would go to the experts' committee which would report back in six months. The joint Casablanca Declaration added it was important that the borders of the

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German leader congratulates King

AMMAN (Petra) — German President Roman Herzog on Tuesday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein congratulating him on the conclusion of a peace treaty with Israel. The German president said that the treaty "is of a historic importance" which came into being as a result of King Hussein's relentless efforts. The president expressed hope that the treaty would fulfill the aspirations of the Israeli and Jordanian people.

UAE quits AOI

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday officially quit a major military venture with two other Gulf Arab states and Egypt. President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan issued a decree on "ending the relationship with the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI)," the official UAE news agency WAM reported. The AOI was established in Cairo by Egypt, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar in 1975 with a capital of around \$1 billion to produce military hardware.

Yeltsin sacks controversial general

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday dismissed a controversial general as first deputy defence minister. Colonel General Matvei Burlakov, the former chief of the Russian armed forces in Germany, has been accused of corruption by Russian newspapers. Most recently, media reports linked his name to the bomb killing of a Moscow investigative reporter.

Israeli reserves near \$7 billion

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's foreign currency reserves have reached \$6.998 billion, a one-month 23 per cent rise, the central bank said Tuesday. The Bank of Israel attributed most of the rise to the arrival of \$1.2 billion in United States economic aid. Israel, with an economy approaching \$70 billion a year, receives some \$3 billion in grants and loans annually from the United States.

Israel takes first steps to lift siege on Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel said it hoped to ease tensions with Palestinians on Tuesday when it took a first step towards lifting the closure clamped on them over the Tel Aviv suicide bus bombing. An Israeli spokeswoman said new entry permits would be issued to 3,000 Palestinians, 4,000 from the autonomous Gaza Strip and 4,000 from the Israeli-occupied West Bank — so they could work in the building industry.

But Captain Hanne Jeshurun, spokeswoman for the Israeli coordinator in the territories, said it would take a day before any would go to jobs in Israel. Palestinian officials have said the 13-day-old closure, preventing about 70,000 Palestinians from going to jobs in Israel, throttled their economy, fuelling opposition to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal with Israel.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said the closure had been needed to restore calm after the Oct. 19 bus attack by a Hamas bomber in which 23 people were killed. But he said sealing off Gaza and the West Bank was no political solution. "We know that by doing that, the situation there doesn't become easier, the situation of the leadership doesn't become easier. As a result of it, we decided to put an end to it," he told reporters. "And from today on, gradually it will not exist any more."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, meeting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at a Middle East economic conference in Morocco on Sunday, had said Israel would gradually lift the closure starting from Tuesday.

Mr. Arafat had pressed to ease the closure which had threatened to overshadow efforts by Israel and the PLO to revitalise the self-rule deal for Gaza and Jericho launched in May. In Casablanca on Sunday, Mr. Rabin vowed to maintain a hard line against militants, telling reporters: "We will feel free to do whatever is needed to protect the lives of the Israelis."

Ms. Jeshurun said: "Starting today new work permits will be distributed for work in Israel to 8,000 construction workers." "We are speaking of married men from 30 on up who worked before the imposition of the closure in Israel. The new permits cancel all previous permits that were distributed until the imposition of the closure." She said it would take at least a day to distribute permits.

The passages are given only to men over 30 who are married and have previously held a job in Israel. Reporters at the Erez crossing to Gaza and the Al Ram entrance to the West Bank said no workers were being allowed in yet, although truck loads of farm produce from the West Bank entered Gaza.

In a related development, Israeli newspapers reported that the Ibrahim Mosque in the West Bank city of Hebron would be reopened Nov. 7. It has been closed since Feb. 25 when a Jewish settler massacred more than 30 Palestinians.

The shrine was supposed to be opened by Oct. 31, after new security arrangements were in place, but the date was postponed following unrest in the city. The army had announced that the tomb complex, which is sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians alike, would reopen at the end of October following alterations to keep believers of the two faiths apart.

But on Tuesday, the army refused to comment on the report saying only that the reopening would be announced the day before. New security measures at the site include a special 200-man border guard unit, closed circuit television cameras and a ban on settlers bringing in their guns.

Police spokesman Eric Bar Chen told AFP the guards had been training in the complex in recent days. Israel's official inquiry into the massacre criticised lax security procedures which allowed Baruch Goldstein to enter a mosque and open fire on Muslims kneeling to pray.

Joint patrol stoned

Palestinian youths hurled stones at a joint Israeli-Palestinian patrol between the Bureij and Nusseirat refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources said. Nobody was hurt in the clash on the Gaza-Rafah road. Witnesses said about 100 youths attacked two jeeps — one Israeli and one Palestinian.

The Palestinian police fired shots in the air and arrested one boy who was throwing stones. Palestinian sources said the stone-throwers belonged to a new group called "The youth of the Intifada," which urged people in Bureij to throw stones at joint patrols.

In Casablanca on Monday, Israel clashed with the PLO over Jerusalem, and the Clinton administration kept its distance from the recurring dispute.

Israel's assignment of a special role to Jordan over Muslim holy sites will have no impact on the final status of the city, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, irked by another Palestinian assertion of a claim to Jerusalem, said he found it "a bit strange" that the PLO should raise the issue at "this time of the day."

The latest round was touched off by PLO spokesman Marwan Kamfani's assertion that Mr. Arafat believes completely in the "commitment" of the Palestinians to Jerusalem.

"Anything that would affect the status of Jerusalem would cause a lot of problems now," he said at a press conference.

The issue was raised at a Sunday meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin and also in speeches at the Middle East-North Africa Summit.

Mr. Rabin, furious, insisted Jerusalem would remain Israel's undivided capital. But Nabil Shaath, Palestinian minister of economic planning and cooperation, said the city should be "the capital of all capitals."

Majali explains Jordan's stand on Jerusalem, rejects criticism of treaty

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday said Jordan would seriously consider transferring the religious custody over the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem to the Palestinians once the final political situation of the Holy City is resolved. Jordan's religious custody over the holy places in Jerusalem is designed to safeguard the Arab identity of this city in the absence of an Arab authority which can look after these holy places, in view of the Israeli occupation of the Holy City, he said. In an interview with the Middle East Broadcasting Corporation, Dr. Majali said Jordan has retained custodianship over the holy places since 1948. In 1967, when Israel occupied Jerusalem, Jordan continued to upkeep the holy places in the Arab city, he

noted. The prime minister added that in 1988, when Jordan severed its legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, it continued to shoulder its religious responsibility towards the holy places there in accordance with a request by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). In the Washington Declaration with Israel, it was necessary for Jordan to include a provision about religious custody over Jerusalem, because "if we have not done so, then we would have dropped that custody and left it for the Israelis," Dr. Majali said. The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26, Dr. Majali said, was the culmination of three years of serious and hard work by Jordanian negotiators. Dr. Majali said Jordan had been able to restore its full

water and territorial rights under the treaty. Asked why he himself, rather than the King, signed the treaty, the prime minister said King Hussein endorses the treaty following its approval by Parliament in accordance with the Constitutional procedures. The King's signature follows and does not precede its endorsement by Parliament. Referring to claims that Jordan leased part of its territory, Dr. Majali said Jordan had not leased and will not lease any plot of land, "although talks about leasing is not a shameful act." "You can lease even in your capital, you can lease to states or to groups," Dr. Majali said. However, he added, Jordan has not leased any land neither to Israel, nor to any other state or party. The plot of land in the north is an Israeli property, it

is owned by Israel; similarly there could be Jordanian land within Syrian territory, or Syrian land within the Jordanian territory, he said. On the Wadi Araba land, Dr. Majali said part of it was purchased and it was like a thorn within the Jordanian territory. However, following the delineation of borders, this land has been restored to Jordanian sovereignty, but the Israelis are cultivating the land. Asked whether Jordan's acceptance to let Israel use this land and cultivate it set a precedent in the Arab region, Dr. Majali said: "It is not a matter of precedent or otherwise. The matter is simply that a piece of land was used by the Israelis, and it is now under total Jordanian sovereignty." Dr. Majali said Jordan had

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Assad, Clinton have 'identical views'

U.S. flexes muscles at Iraq in Kuwait show

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton and Hafez Al Assad agreed last week that a Syrian-Israeli settlement would lead to a global Middle East peace, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said here Tuesday. "There was an agreement and identical views... that peace with Syria would open the way for peace with Lebanon and for a comprehensive and real peace in the region," Mr. Sharaa told reporters. Mr. Sharaa came to Beirut to inform President Elias Hrawi of the Syrian-U.S. summit held on Oct. 27 in Damascus, during Mr. Clinton's six-country Middle East tour that excluded Lebanon. "There was a convergence of ideas... that the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions should lead to a full (Israeli) withdrawal from the Golan and from South Lebanon," the Syrian official said.

"A comprehensive solution is as much an important objective for the American administration as for Syria and Lebanon," he added. "It depends very much on the good intentions of the Israeli government in responding to the peace requirements announced by (Assad) when he spoke about Syria's readiness to meet the objective requirements of peace, including the full withdrawal and peaceful normal relations with Israel," he said.

Syria's and Lebanon's negotiations with Israel have achieved no tangible results. Syria's talks with Israel are stalled over the scope and timing of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights occupied in 1967. Lebanon wants Israel to pull out from a southern border strip captured in 1978. President Hrawi on Sunday renewed his proposal for a joint Lebanon-Israeli political and military commission to supervise an Israeli withdrawal over a pull-out (see pages 2 and 12).

Mr. Sharaa praised the Lebanese government for its "deep and continuous coordination with Syria." Some 35,000 Syrian troops are deployed in Lebanon. "Our confidence in the Lebanese government is never subject to any doubt. Our coordination is very deep and very strong," he said.

KUWAIT (Agencies) — U.S. B-52 bombers led an armada of more than 100 allied warplanes in exercises over Kuwait and southern Iraq Tuesday that were designed to drive home to Iraq the U.S.-led coalition's resolve to protect the emirate. Two B-52s and a pair of B-1 bombers flew from their U.S. bases for the manoeuvres and U.S. A-10 Thunderbolt tank-killing ground-attack jets also took part in the manoeuvres, the biggest allied air force exercise in the last couple of years. Kuwait's defence minister, Sheikh Ahmad Al Humoud Al Sabah, applauded as B-52s dropped 225-kilogramme bombs on simulated targets, including burned-out Iraqi tanks left from the 1991 Gulf war, in the emirates' northern desert. Allied warplanes were also in the skies in the "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq below the 32nd Parallel. Details of that part of the exercise were not provided. But no incidents were reported despite Iraqi protests about what Baghdad termed a provocative and illegal allied operation. Coalition aircraft have

been operating from bases in Saudi Arabia and Turkey since the war to monitor the "no-fly" zone and a similar exclusion zone in northern Iraq. Two B-1s and two B-52s flew 13 hours after takeoff from bases at Ellsworth, South Dakota and Minot, North Dakota, before staging the bombing. "Aggression will not be an acceptable way of doing business over here," said Lieutenant General Richard Neal, deputy commander in chief and chief of staff of U.S. Central Command, the unit of the U.S. military responsible for the Middle East. "If our neighbour to the north (Iraq) wants to try to think about committing an aggression against Kuwait, then this is a message directed to him." Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad told reporters. "We and the world will not allow him to commit an aggression against Kuwait." The B-1 bombers said B-52 stratoforces are former cold war era nuclear bombers modified to carry conventional arms.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Czech Republic minister to arrive for talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Czech Republic delegation led by the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alexandr Vondra, today starts its official visit to Jordan, according to an embassy statement. During his two-day visit Mr. Vondra will meet with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss international and regional issues, as well as bilateral relations.

Olympic Airways to resume Amman flights

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Tuesday announced that the Greek national airline Olympic Airways will resume regular flights to Jordan as of this month, after a four-year break resulting from the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis. It said the first flight will arrive at the Queen Alia International Airport today.

Seminar to discuss export promotion

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry Tuesday said it was planning a seminar to be held in conjunction with the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce to dis-

cuss means of encouraging Jordanian exports. A chamber statement said that the discussions at the meeting to take place in January would focus on increasing Jordan's exports to Japan and the United States.

Agricultural engineers to meet in Beirut

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) Tuesday said that it will take part in a scientific conference in Beirut on Nov. 9. The conference is scheduled to discuss food security for the Arab World. Jordan will submit working papers to the three-day conference outlining efforts to increase food production.

ICRC to hold special exhibition

AMMAN — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is organising an exhibition on international humanitarian law using the medium of Arabic calligraphy. The exhibition will be held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath from Nov. 16 to 22. Fahd Haddad, assistant ICRC head of the delegation here, said the exhibition, to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre, is designed to focus on the international humanitarian law from the perspective of Arab and Islamic culture and in line with 1949 Geneva conventions.

Jordan will hand over holy shrines

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"We will not leave to Israel the question of caring for or sovereignty over the holy sites but we will hand over this trust to a Palestinian Arab authority," the Crown Prince stressed.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's adviser on Jerusalem, Faisal Al Hussein, said he welcomed the Crown Prince's remarks.

"I salute Crown Prince Hassan for his clarification," Mr. Hussein told Reuters. But he said the clause on Jordan's supervisory role in Jerusalem should never have been in the treaty in the first place.

In reply to a question on the nature of the relationship between Jordan and the PLO-led Palestine National Authority (PNA), Prince Hassan said Jordan and the Palestinians had accomplished joint economic achievements but stressed that these can be no sound projects without sound planning. He also stressed the need for the Palestinians to create their national institutions to take care of joint schemes. Prince Hassan emphasised the importance of achieving Jordanian-Palestinian integration on an equitable basis.

Referring to economic development of the Middle East and North Africa, Prince Hassan voiced hope that a projected regional development bank or fund would serve as a regional institution and not follow the pattern of the already existing financial institutions including the World Bank.

"When we discuss economic reform in the Arab region we recall our dealing

with the World Bank, which is mainly based on the principle of the carrot and the stick," added Prince Hassan.

"While contemplating the creation of regional institutions, we ought to remember our experiences with such institutions as the International Monetary Fund and the OPEC investment fund," the Prince added.

Referring to a planned follow-up economic conference to be held in Amman next year, Prince Hassan said the conference's secretariat would focus attention on making the conference serve as a qualitative forum which would dedicate its deliberations to the basic issues related to trade and investment.

When Amman played host to an economic summit meeting in 1980 it was at the government and political level of the Arab World, "but we are now talking about a multinational summit that would tackle different specialisations and interests of concern both to private as well as public sectors," added Prince Hassan.

Asked to comment on reports that Saudi Arabia had expressed reservations about the establishment of the Middle East development fund, Prince Hassan said he was not aware of the contents of the Saudi statement. But, he added, such reservation could be for the sake of giving time for consideration.

"We share Saudi Arabia's views in this matter because the bank is not a target in itself and it would take experts sometime to work out details which could be presented to next year's Amman economic summit," Prince Hassan said.

Prince Hassan said that he reached agreement with the U.S. administrations and European and other international organisations on basic principles. These, he said, included agreement that the industrialised nations should play a central role in the projected Middle East fund or bank, helping the countries of the region to merge economically and that any merger of economies should mainly be of benefit to the weaker nations.

He said that a development bank would help achieve an economic balance in the region.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, he said, helped Jordan regain full rights in its lands and water resources. But, he said, he was against the idea of equating what is termed as subjugation with the term of normalisation of relations.

"These two terms are not synonymous and indeed a meeting between Israeli and Jordanian business people have helped to break the ice while another meeting between scientists was dedicated to topics related to industry and technology benefiting both sides," he said.

Prince Hassan voiced Jordan's commitment to supporting the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles, noting that the Palestinians and Jordanians had gone to the Madrid conference under one umbrella.

"We have reached economic agreements, and we are waiting for their official endorsement by the Palestinian side," said the Prince, who stressed the need for integrated economic schemes for the West Bank as well as for Jordan.

Majali explains stand

(Continued from page 1)

not rushed the signing of the treaty with Israel but has delved into in-depth and detailed negotiations which led to Jordan's regaining of its full rights. He said that the acceleration of peace negotiations on the Jordanian track followed the acceleration of talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and noted that Jordan did not act unilaterally, nor did it hold any secret deals with Israel.

The prime minister noted that Jordan had always informed its Arab brethren on development on the Jordanian-Israeli peace track but has not received their feedback.

He noted that Jordan had, from the beginning of the peace process, requested that all Arabs have one track, but "our request was rejected at the time."

Dr. Majali said Jordan cannot let its problems accumulate at a time when it is falling under the pressure of an economic war waged against it despite the fact that Jordan hosts the largest number of refugees in the world.

Asked whether the treaty had detached Jordan from its Arab family and turned it into a security belt on the eastern flank of Israel, Dr. Majali said all the North African countries, excluding Libya, and all the Gulf countries have supported the peace process.

On Syria's opposition to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, Dr. Majali said "we have not heard about Syrian opposition."

"However, President Hafez Al Assad was clear and did not object to the establishment of peace in the region. He believes in a com-

prehensive peace that ensures the Arab rights," Dr. Majali said.

He described Jordan's relations with Syria as good and brotherly, noting that differences of opinion on certain issues was normal.

Dr. Majali welcomed progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, saying that Jordan aspires to see such progress.

On the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Dr. Majali said Jordan will not impose on the Palestinians any decision nor any agreement, and will leave it to the Palestinian people who will decide on it by their full and free volition once they obtain their right to self-determination.

Asked whether Jordan will fight terrorism in line with Parliament, Dr. Majali said Jordan had always been against terrorism. However, it differentiates between terrorism and resistance of occupation.

Dr. Majali said there is no such a Jordanian party in Jordan. He added that there are no bases for Hamas in Jordan at all.

Asked if Jordan fears a new wave of extremism, Dr. Majali said Jordan was ready for everything, and is fully equipped to cope with any such things.

"It is our right to live in peace in our land. It is also our right to resist any attempt to tamper with our security."

On the issue of Palestinian refugees, Dr. Majali said the Jordanian track was the only track which addressed this issue. The problem of the Palestinian refugees will be discussed in the final stage talks, he pointed out.

Assad, Clinton

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Asked whether the talks dealt with Mr. Hrawi's offer, Mr. Sharaa said:

"Lebanon has for years been demanding the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 which stipulates an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon."

"It is natural then that if Israel is ready to withdraw that a joint committee is formed to discuss security arrangements to implement the full withdrawal."

Mr. Sharaa held two hours of talks on Tuesday with Lebanese President Hrawi at his hilltop palace in suburban Baabda east of Beirut.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Foreign Minister Faris Bouze also attended the talks.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said negotiations will have to be accelerated if Israel and Syria are to make peace in the coming months.

"I hope that despite all the difficulties we'll make peace with Syria and Lebanon not in a course of years but in a course of months," he told the Foreign Press Association.

"In order to have an agreement with the Syrians in the near future we have to speed up the pace. I cannot say that the continuation of such a pace will lead us to an agreement very soon."

Mr. Beilin described President Clinton's visit to Damascus last Thursday as "productive."

But he criticised President Assad saying: "His public diplomacy is far from answering the basic needs for some kind of confidence building measures."

Princess Basma meets women appointees to municipal committees; urges success

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday met the 29 women who were appointed last month as members of government committees that will run municipal affairs until the September 1995 municipal elections are held. Princess Basma expressed her appreciation of the government's decision in this regard, saying that this initiative aims at promoting the status of women and at stimulating their role in the Jordanian society.

The Cabinet decision can be considered one of the fruits of the National Strategy for Women which aims at helping women attain their aspirations, added the Princess.

She stressed the need for these women to succeed in their mission, which, she said, is the first of its kind in the Kingdom.

Princess Basma had requested that the council of ministers approve the appointment of women to the municipal committees. The Cabinet approved the appointments on Oct. 24.

Princess Basma told the women that the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs will organise a training workshop for them in order to orient them on



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday meets with the women appointed to serve on municipality committees until next year's municipal elections. Minister of Municipal and

Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Krishan also attended the meeting (Petra photo)

the requirements of their tasks and ensure the success of their mission. Speakers among the group of women expressed their happiness over their

appointment and thanked the Princess for her efforts in serving women's interests and the country as a whole.

Next year's municipal

elections will be held in implementation of a new law endorsed by Parliament last July.

The Cabinet had decided to dissolve all serving municipal

councils, including those run by government-appointed committees, and set up 191 new committees to administer them until the elections.

Casablanca summit

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economic progress and prosperity in the region."

The king added: "The summit has not resolved all political problems."

There is still Arab land occupied and it is indispensable that the state of Palestine becomes a concrete reality so it can contribute to stability in the region."

The final declaration set up a steering committee which will work with the organisers of the multilateral peace negotiations spawned by the 1991 Middle East peace conference to report within six months on the main Casablanca proposals.

It said the new partnership of business and government born in Casablanca between Arabs and Israelis would be an ongoing process and pledged to meet again in Amman, in the first half of 1995 to ensure that progress is made.

"The Casablanca summit calls for a group of experts to examine the different options for funding mechanisms including the creation of a Middle East and North Africa development bank," the declaration said.

The declaration also urged establishment of a private-sector regional chamber of commerce and business council to facilitate trade relations.

An executive secretariat to be based in Morocco will "work for the enhancement of the new economic development pattern," the statement said.

Israel, Jordan and Egypt agreed to set up a joint private investment bank for the Middle East during the conference. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said, "There are many deals."

Mr. Peres told reporters, "A private investment bank in the Middle East was established yesterday involving three countries — Egypt, Jordan and Israel."

The joint bank agreed between the three countries would be separated from the proposed regional bank, he said.

The private investment bank will be the first joint bank between Israel and Arab states since the Jewish state was established in 1948.

Egypt was the first Arab state to sign peace with Israel in 1979 and Jordan signed a treaty last week.

Mr. Peres, speaking to reporters before entering the final session of the conference, also said Jordan and Israel had agreed to undertake a feasibility study to convert the airport at Aqaba into an international airport serving both countries.

He did not say which banks in the three countries would be involved in the joint banking project.

Israel had also concluded agreements in tourism with various countries, Mr. Peres said, but he did not name them.

"There is a fair chance that at the end of this conference, there will be a lot of private business," he said.

The bank would have a base capital of \$2.5 billion. A further \$7.5 billion would be raised from other institu-

tions, Egyptian Privatisation Minister Ali Obeid told the conference.

The idea is to create a bank along the lines of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development which provides \$1 out of every \$7 invested in the countries of post-communist Eastern Europe.

Saudi Commerce Minister Suleiman Al Sulaim, who noticeably shunned contact with Israelis at the gathering, said earlier the Middle East and North Africa did not need another financial institution.

It could fund economic revival "without the need for establishing new administrative institutions which would waste time and effort," Mr. Sulaim told delegates on Monday night.

The audience of business people and government officials had just enthusiastically applauded a senior U.S. treasury official telling them that President Bill Clinton backed the bank, a linchpin of economic development.

"A development bank can respond to this region's special needs — for integrated infrastructure, for allocation of water, for attracting visitors from around the world, and for reduced barriers to commerce," U.S. Treasury Under-Secretary Lawrence Summers said.

Both Mr. Peres and the U.S. State Department had pushed for the bank, overcoming reluctance from their respective finance ministries to make commitments to an institution which they feared could become a sink hole.

Symbolising the improved ties sweeping the region, Israel and Morocco were to open interest bureaus Tuesday in each others' capitals, a step in the process of mutual diplomatic recognition.

Israelis and Arabs joined international investors in examining how tourism, telecommunications, water sharing and other economic investment can help ensure peace in the Middle East.

The participants were sitting in on panels, meeting in hallways and crowding Casablanca's best restaurants to sound out partners and begin cutting deals.

Water sharing has long been a contentious topic, as Israel's sources of water include reservoirs seized after its war with Syria and subterranean pockets under the occupied West Bank.

Water is a prized resource in the deserts of the arid Middle East. "National aims, including agricultural, employment and social policy are involved in the value of water," said Franklin Fisher, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Telecommunications is another industry ripe for exploitation that was taken up Monday, as an explosion of information capacity is expected the Middle East as peace breaks out.

"Aside from Libya, most Arab countries want to ride the coattails of the peace process and get on the information highway," said J. Douglas Hauger.

NGOs review proposed plan for Beijing women's meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint plan proposed by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Arab countries and to be submitted to a regional preparatory meeting for the World Conference on Women next year was reviewed here Tuesday by women liaison officers from Jordan and 11 Arab states, according to Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW).

The plan which is to be submitted to a three-day meeting that starts Thursday under the chairmanship of

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, tackled a wide range of topics of concern to Arab women and women's participation in the political, economic and social life of the Arab World, said Dr. Abu Ghazaleh after the meeting.

Dr. Abu Ghazaleh, who is the Arab coordinator for the World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, said that the joint plan provides for measures that would end all forms of discrimination against women.

"At Tuesday's meeting a general review of women's status in the Arab World was

made, with special attention given to obstacles that impede their participation in development and in contributing towards the establishment of peace in the Arab region," said Dr. Abu Ghazaleh.

The liaison officers, she added, discussed how to better qualify women in trade and investment fields under legislation that guarantees these activities.

Also, said Dr. Abu Ghazaleh, the NGO representatives reviewed ideas to help women participate in the democratic process.

Ministry to implement integrated plan for Petra region development — official

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities is currently implementing an integrated plan for the development of the Petra region aimed at improving the living conditions of the local population and protecting the environment as well as the historical sites, according to Ghassan Mufleh, the ministry's secretary general.

Addressing a visiting delegation of German media professionals, Dr. Mufleh said that the ministry took a decision to limit the daily number of visitors to the ancient city of Petra to 1,500.

The German delegation is on a familiarisation tour of the touristic and archaeological attractions in the Kingdom.

Last August, the government approved ministry plans to raise to JD 20 from JD 5 the entrance fee to Petra for individual foreign tourists. Tourists wishing to visit Petra for more than one day will be charged JD 25 for a two-day pass and JD 30 for a three-day pass.

Pointing out that Petra and other attractions in the kingdom are witnessing a significant increase in the number of visitors from different countries, Dr. Mufleh said

that the new era of peace was expected to further advance the tourism industry.

Dr. Mufleh said that Germany is the most important market, and Jordan has been promoting its touristic and archaeological sites there in an effort to expand that market.

Referring to regional cooperation, Dr. Mufleh said that Jordan was exploring all prospects for cooperation to benefit its tourism industry and is continually seeking joint projects to help promote its treasures, including holding joint fairs and participating in international tourism forums.

Canadian envoy inaugurates bakery at refugee camp rehabilitation centre

IRBID (J.T.) — Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Andrew Robinson Tuesday inaugurated an automated bakery at the Community Rehabilitation Centre at Martyr Azim Al Mufti refugee camp near Huson city.

In a brief address at the ceremony Mr. Robinson said that Canada, which contributed JD 18,400 to establish the bakery, fully backs the peace process and the improvement of the refugees' living conditions.

To underline his country's backing for the peace pro-

cess, he said it is hoped that the bakery would constitute the first step towards future similar Canadian-funded projects.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Affairs Director in Jordan Ele Saaf delivered a speech lauding the efforts of a local camp committee to improve the social conditions of the disabled and handicapped persons.

Mr. Saaf voiced appreciation to Canada for the donation and its continued con-

tribution to the agency's annual budget.

According to an UNRWA statement the bakery will work to support the disabled and part of the running costs of the centre.

The Community Rehabilitation Centre was established in 1987 to provide day care for disabled persons in the refugee camp; it currently serves 50 disabled people.

Canada is a major contributor to the UNRWA budget, with more than \$8 million for 1994.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

PLAY

★ Play for children (in Arabic) entitled "Hakaya Abu Al Ajab" (Strange Stories) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

FILM

★ Film entitled "Wild West" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of art by Annie Sakakab at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Ibrahim Al Abdal at Orfali Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of art by Adnan Al Sharif at A'ad Art Gallery.

★ A special exhibition of "Polluted City — the Monuments" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iman Khaled and Fawzi Rasoul at Balesna Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by Olla Bseiso and an exhibition of Arabic calligraphy at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

★ Exhibition of textiles artist and patchwork by Tunikhi Haddadin at the Gallery located at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

★ Exhibition entitled "Spanish Modern — Engraving and Multiplied Sculpture" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 630128).

★ The First Computer Art Exhibition in the Arab World at Ain Art Gallery.

Khmer Rouge kill Western hostages

PHNOM PENH (R) — Three Western hostages were executed by their Khmer Rouge captors and their remains have been exhumed as evidence, Cambodia's second Prime Minister Hun Sen said Tuesday.

"Today, I would like to report the deaths of the three Westerners. The three are dead — they were killed by the Khmer Rouge," Hun Sen said in the southern town of Kampot.

The remains of the three were exhumed Tuesday from graves discovered near Vine Mountain in southern Kampot province.

"The Khmer Rouge detained them from the train ambush and then they killed them. This means clearly the Khmer Rouge are murderers of the Cambodian people and they now kill foreigners too," Mr. Hun Sen said.

Briton Mark Slater, 28, Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, from France and David Wilson, 29, an Australian, were taken hostage by the Khmer Rouge on July 26 after a train ambush in southern Kampot province in which 13 people were killed.

Along with three ethnic Vietnamese and an unknown number of Cambodians, the three foreigners were mar-

ched at gunpoint to a Khmer Rouge base in nearby Vine Mountain, which is about 150 kilometres south of Phnom Penh.

Information Minister Ieng Mouly had announced earlier Tuesday the discovery of the graves believed to contain the bodies of the three Western hostages.

"The Royal Cambodian government regrets to announce that graves believed to contain the bodies of the three Western hostages were located Monday, Oct. 31, in the Vine Mountains in Kampot province," he said in a statement.

Mr. Hun Sen said the remains recovered from the graves would be brought from Vine Mountain to Kampot town later Tuesday. He said a military guard had been posted at the site to protect the graves.

"I would like to express my condolences to the fathers of the three and I would like to condemn those who killed the three abducted from the train," Mr. Hun Sen said.

Mr. Mouly said the embassies of Australia, Britain and France have been notified of the discovery and representatives were invited to attend the exhumation.

He said he believed the trio

were executed "around the 28th of September."

A senior Khmer Rouge defector told Reuters Sunday the three Westerners were killed on the orders of General Noun Paet, the insurgent commander at Vine Mountain.

"They were tied up and shot by AK-47. I've known this for a long time by (General Noun) Paet ordered my men to say they were sent to the border," he said.

The government was currently searching for Gen. Noun Paet, Mr. Mouly said.

"He's refused to defect so we are searching for him, and if we capture him I think he must be punished," he said.

The Cambodian army last week seized Vine Mountain but there was no sign of the hostages or of Gen. Paet, who was believed to have escaped west to more secure rebel-held areas.

Khmer Rouge defectors who took part in the train ambush but had since defected would be pardoned, he said.

There had been no word on the fate of the hostage since a videotape and a letter were received in Phnom Penh on Sept. 2.

On Tuesday the British embassy issued a toughly-

worded travel advisory requesting that their nationals avoid Cambodia because of its security problems.

"The situation in Cambodia poses serious security risks. British visitors are advised not to visit the country," it said.

Britain condemned the killings as a barbaric outrage and said it would press Cambodia to bring those responsible to justice.

"This tragic and senseless killing of an innocent British tourist in Cambodia is an outrage," Antony Baldry, parliamentary under-secretary of state at the Foreign Office said in a statement.

"We shall press the Cambodian authorities to do everything in their power to ensure there are no further abductions of innocent foreign tourists and that the perpetrators of this appalling crime are brought to justice."

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe called the killings an "odious and cowardly act" and asked that the body of the French victim, Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, be returned to his family.

"The French government demands that all possible for this crime be identified and punished," Mr. Juppe said in a statement.



Indiana State Police Sgt. Pat King briefs people are presumed dead in the crash in a reporters about the crash of American Eagle commuter Flight 4184. Authorities say 68 photo

Commuter plane crashes in U.S., 68 die

ROSELAWN, Indiana (AP) — An American Eagle commuter plane crashed in a cornfield during a driving rainstorm, killing all 68 people aboard.

Flight 4184 from Indianapolis to Chicago went down 48 kilometres south of Gary in northwest Indiana at about 4 p.m. (2000 GMT), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said.

Heavy rain forced authorities to quickly halt the search of the area until Tuesday.

American Eagle would not speculate on the possible cause of the crash, airline

spokeswoman Debbie Weathers said. State police and airline officials said nobody survived.

Larry Midkiff said he was driving along a highway when he spotted a black puff of smoke and the plane banking sharply before it plunged to the ground.

"It didn't look like it had a left wing on it," Mr. Midkiff said. "It just looked like a black streak coming down."

People on the scene said there was driving rain at the time of the crash and that it was too dark to see much in the area. Winds were gusting

to 79 kph (49 mph) in Gary, the closest reporting station, the National Weather Service said.

"Debris was so scattered, you really couldn't tell if there was an airplane out there," said Michael Schwanke, a reporter with WLQI Radio in Rensselaer who was at the site.

The plane was descending from an altitude of 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) to 2,500 metres (8,000 feet) when it disappeared from radar screens at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, said Don Zochert with the FAA.

U.S., Burma officials hold talks

RANGOON (Agencies) — Senior U.S. diplomats met with Burmese junta chief Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt Tuesday in the first high-level discussion between the two countries in six years, embassy sources said.

Details of the talks, which were described only as "lengthy," were not immediately available.

The four-member U.S. delegation, led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Hubbard, also met with Rangoon's foreign minister, Ohn Gyaaw, according to the sources.

Mr. Hubbard, who specialises in East Asian and Pacific affairs, arrived Monday with a representative of the U.S. National Security Council for talks with the junta "on issues of concern to the Un-

ited States, including human rights, democratisation and counter-narcotics efforts," a U.S. State Department statement said.

The visit was not reported in the local print media Tuesday, but was expected to feature in radio and television broadcasts.

The U.S. delegation is scheduled to leave Rangoon for Bangkok on Wednesday and hold a press conference.

The United States is one of a few hold-out countries which continue to support sanctions against the State Law and Order Restoration Council, or SLORC, the official name of Rangoon's ruling military regime.

Following a bloody crackdown in 1988 on a pro-democracy uprising, in which

thousand were killed, Washington severed contacts with the military junta.

But some of Washington's main allies, Europe and Australia, relaxed their own positions recently, adopting a "critical dialogue" and a "constructive engagement," respectively, with the junta.

Meanwhile a senior junta official said Tuesday recent talks between Burma's military government and detained dissident Aung San Suu Kyi were not the result of pressure from any quarter.

Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt told a Rangoon teachers' conference Monday the talks, the second round of which took place Friday, covered political and economic efforts being made by the junta and measures to be taken in future.

Mr. Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister who returned to lead his native Georgia in 1992, praised Dr. Ghali's three-day visit as having a "historic importance for Georgia."

Mr. Shevardnadze has come under increasing pressure from the opposition, which has blamed him for signing a Moscow-brokered truce with Abkhazian separatist leaders.

Russia has sent some 3,000 peacekeepers to Abkhazia, but they had failed to guarantee the return of the Georgian refugees into the lush Black Sea province.

The war in Abkhazia began in the summer of 1992 when Georgian government soldiers marched into the province in a bid to root out the secessionist movement.

The bloodshed, which claimed more than 3,000 lives, ended last fall when Abkhazian forces defeated the Georgians and drove them out of Abkhazia.

Ghali arrives in Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali arrived here Monday to discuss plans for the return of Georgian refugees into the secessionist province of Abkhazia.

"The purpose of my visit is to reinforce relations between the United Nations and Georgia," Dr. Ghali told reporters after meeting with the Georgian leader, Eduard Shevardnadze.

"One of the obligations of the U.N. is to preserve and reinforce the political independence, the territorial integrity and the inviolability of the boundaries of the member states," he said.

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Mexico's Zapatista rebel leader threatens war by the year's end

SAN CRISTOBAL, Mexico (AFP) — Zapatista rebel leader Subcomandante Marcos threatened Thursday to end a ceasefire with the government and launch an all-out war by year's end.

President Carlos Salinas "has done everything possible to end his term in office with a war, and he is going to get it," Comm. Marcos said in a message to the government's chief negotiator with the rebels, Mr. Salinas' term ends on Dec. 1.

The Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) rose up against the federal government on Jan. 1 demanding better health care and social benefits for the people of Chiapas, Mexico's poorest state, as well as democratic reform on a national level.

The Zapatistas have observed a ceasefire since Jan. 13, and began negotiations with the government which since have broken down.

In a message addressed to federal peace commissioner Jorge Madrazo, Comm. Marcos said the Mexican army was constantly making threatening moves in territory controlled by the Zapatistas.

"Either you are trying to fool us, or you are an accomplice to the future break in the ceasefire, or they are fooling you, too," Comm. Marcos wrote.

Mr. Madrazo earlier announced that verification commissions were being set up at military posts at the entrance to neutral territories

separating the Mexican army from the rebel force, and that federal officials were committed to negotiating a peaceful settlement.

But according to Comm. Marcos, "in its deeds, the government has insisted on a military solution to the conflict (and) the reports we have made on the acts of intimidation by government forces — giving the places, dates and times — have not been denied."

The rebel leadership however has said it accepts in principle the initiative of the mediator in the conflict, San Cristobal Bishop Samuel Ruiz, to find a political solution. Bishop Ruiz met Sunday with Mr. Salinas and Mr. Madrazo on the Chiapas crisis.

The EZLN repeatedly has accused the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of covering up crimes and internal party struggles in order to maintain its 65-year lock on national rule.

Comm. Marcos' communique listed conditions for renewing peace talks, including the bringing to justice of "the real culprits" in the May 1993 murder of Guadalupe Cardenal Juan Jesus Posadas; the March 1994 assassination of PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio; and the September 1994 murder of PRI Secretary General Francisco Ruiz Massieu.

Possible links to drug trafficking have been suggested in all three murder cases, but such a connection has only been pursued in the Posadas killing.

Officials said Mr. Posadas was shot dead in the parking lot of the Guadalajara Airport when drug traffickers mistook him for the leader of a rival drug gang.

There also has been speculation that Mr. Colosio, and possibly Mr. Ruiz Massieu, were targeted by conservatives in the PRI opposed to making the party more democratic.

Meanwhile, a Mexican judge sentenced a 23-year-old man to 42 years in prison Monday for the March murder of Mr. Colosio.

Mario Aburto Martinez confessed to the March 23 assassination in the northern city of Tijuana of the presidential frontrunner but said he only meant to hurt Mr. Colosio.

In a statement, the state prosecutor general said that Judge Alejandro Sosa Ortiz found Mr. Martinez guilty of "premeditated and willful murder" based on the evidence presented by federal authorities.

A special investigator assigned to the Colosio case said Mr. Martinez, a poor, uneducated man, acted alone but several officials have raised the possibility of a plot including a former aide to the Attorney General Eduardo Valle.

Mr. Valle argued that Mr. Colosio's death was linked to the drug trade and that powerful cartels should be investigated for their possible involvement in the assassination.

Freedom has a price in Taiwan

TAIPEI (AFP) — People who return captive beasts to the wild may be jailed and fined 150,000 Taiwan dollars (\$5,769) under the amended Wildlife Conservation Law, officials said here Sunday.

Under the revised law, the freeing of both protected and non-protected species of wildlife is banned, and the purchase of protected species of animals, even to free them, is considered collaboration with poachers.

The agriculture officials said releasing captured animals — monkeys, snakes, birds, turtles and fish are the most common — into the wild damages the ecology cycle.

The animals are rarely able to return to their original living areas, they added. The officials added that they were especially warning Buddhists, who, they said, buy wild animals and set them free as a good deed to accrue merit.

Taiwan Thursday amended the wildlife law to add punishments of up to seven years in jail and fines to up to 2.5 million Taiwan dollars, and President Lee Teng-Hui promulgated it Saturday. The law was aimed at alleviating international pressure on Taiwan to protect endangered species.

The United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species will hold an annual meeting next month to decide whether to impose worldwide trade sanctions against Taiwan for failing to check the illegal trade in rhinoceros horns and tiger bones.

Over-use closes Dutch electronic porn archives

DELFT, Netherlands (R) — So many people tapped into the electronic pornography archives at a Dutch university that its computer overloaded and the service had to be closed. Since the archives at Delft's Technical University were hooked up to the worldwide Internet computer network in 1992, up to 10,000 people a day had consulted their comprehensive picture collection, an archives spokesman said.

Most of them were Americans and Britons. In the end, the university computer failed to cope with demand, the spokesman said.

Oscar winner Paquin offered role in Pinocchio

WELLINGTON (AP) — Anna Paquin, who won an Oscar this year for playing Holly Hunter's precocious daughter in *The Piano*, is considering a role in a movie version of the children's classic *Pinocchio*. The 12-year-old agent, Gail Cowan, said Monday director Francis Ford Coppola wants her for the film due to be shot in England next year. "She has looked at a script, and has been offered a role. But there's nothing concrete at the moment," said Ms. Cowan, who gave no further details. Anna, who never acted professionally before debuting in *The Piano*, was named best supporting actress at the Oscars in March.

Since then the schoolgirl has signed with Los Angeles-based agency William Morris to help cope with a flood of offers from producers. Her parents, known to be very protective of their daughter, could not be immediately contacted for comment.

Violent crime surges on U.S. streets — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Violent crimes such as robberies and assaults soared more than three times faster last year than crime as a whole in the United States, the Justice Department said Sunday. Violent crimes were up 5.6 per cent in 1993 to 10.9 million, according to the annual National Crime Victimization Survey by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Meanwhile, the total number of personal and household crimes — totalling 43.6 million — rose 1.6 per cent from 1992, the report said. "It's no wonder crime is America's number-one concern," said Charles Shumer, a Democrat from New York and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee's crime panel.

"We've become a society of victims or people afraid of becoming victims." The survey was based on interviews with 100,000 people aged 12 and older, estimating totals from personal and telephone contacts. While the Federal Bureau of Investigation's unified crime reports tally only crimes reported to police, the victimisation survey includes many unreported incidents.



Policemen with an AK-47 rifle guard Bela Josef Nuss, an American tourist rescued from a hideout of Kashmiri militants (AFP photo)

Indian police free 4 Western hostages

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian police said Tuesday they had freed unharmed four Western tourists held hostage by alleged Kashmiri separatists and threatened with beheading unless 10 jailed militants were released.

Two policemen and a militant were killed in two raids that abruptly ended the hostage-taking 12 hours after the militants threatened to kill the three Britons and one American.

The British and U.S. embassies said they learned of the kidnappings by the previously unknown Kashmiri group Al Hadid only after a note was delivered to foreign news organisations in Delhi Monday afternoon.

"Unless our brothers are released, our Western hostages — the guests of the Indian government — will be beheaded one at a time," read the letter.

Police said that just hours later the U.S. hostage, English teacher Bela Nuss from Walnut Creek, California, was found almost accidentally in a village 40 kilometres from Delhi.

Mr. Nuss, 43, was taken hostage in New Delhi on the night of Oct. 19 by a man he had befriended, a U.S. diplomat said. He was hooded, put in a van, and driven away.

Police said they went to Mussoorie village to investigate reports of suspicious activities and saw someone jump from a roof. After breaking down the door be-

cause they heard noises from inside, they found Mr. Nuss chained to the wall.

Police stalked out the building and later a van containing several men drew up outside. After a shootout and a car chase, the men, who were Kashmiris, were captured, police said.

Under interrogation, they revealed the three British hostages — identified as Paul Benjamin Ridout, Christopher Myles Croston and Rhys Partridge — were being held in Saharanpur, some 150 kilometres north of Delhi.

Police said they then freed the three Britons in a second shootout in which two policemen were killed. One militant, identified as Mohammad Ali, also died in a raid launched about 3.30 a.m. (2200 GMT Monday). No militants were captured.

A British diplomat said it appeared the three Britons had also been kidnapped by people who befriended them in the Indian capital. It was not known when they were abducted, although one checked out of a Delhi hotel on Oct. 26.

All four hostages were in good health, police said. Mr. Nuss was transferred to Delhi early Tuesday and the three Britons were expected in the capital later in the day. "We are very pleased with the outcome," a British diplomat said.

Neither the British nor U.S. governments were in touch with the militants dur-

ing the hostage-taking, and no deal was made with the captors for their release, diplomats said.

Some of the many Kashmiri groups leading an anti-Indian revolt over the past five years have kidnapped Indian officials and businessmen.

Foreigners have been kidnapped three times, and one Israeli tourist was killed in a bungled hostage-taking attempt.

All of the previous kidnaps occurred in Kashmir, where police and hospitals have reported more than 17,000 deaths since the revolt erupted in January 1990.

Mr. Nuss told Reuters his captors said they had sent a message to the Indian government shortly after he was captured saying they wanted New Delhi to release the 10 jailed militants.

A senior police official said it appeared the militants wanted international media attention and some "bargaining chips" to convince the British and U.S. governments to press India to bow to Kashmiri separatists' demands.

It was not known why New Delhi, if it did indeed know of the kidnappings, had not notified the British and U.S. governments.

Several officials said they first knew of the kidnappings when the demand notes were delivered to foreign news bureaux in Delhi. "It's a little weird," one said.

Clinton is back on campaign trail

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Fresh from the pomp and ceremony of his Mideast trip, President Bill Clinton embarked on a feverish campaign for Democratic candidates in need of a midterm election lift.

Mr. Clinton flew here early Monday morning and then was heading across the state to Pittsburgh to attend rallies for Sen. Harris Wofford and gubernatorial candidate Mark Singel, both in tough races in a state Mr. Clinton carried two years ago.

Speaking at a rally in the courtyard of Philadelphia City Hall, Mr. Clinton said, "every day more and more Americans are beginning to know that the real issue here is who will fight for ordinary Americans. ... The answer is, we are — and you need to help us win on Nov. 8."

"The sun has begun to shine on this election," he said.

While Mr. Clinton's own job is not at stake, his effectiveness as a leader and his party's future are being tested in the Nov. 8 general election. The outcome will determine the makeup of the next Congress and the leadership of several U.S. states.

Although many Democratic candidates are keeping their distance from Mr. Clinton, a growing number welcome his support now that the latest round of polls

shows his numbers are on the rise. He planned to visit at least nine states in the eight days before the vote.

"The wind is at the backs of Democratic candidates now," Vice President Al Gore said Sunday on ABC-TV.

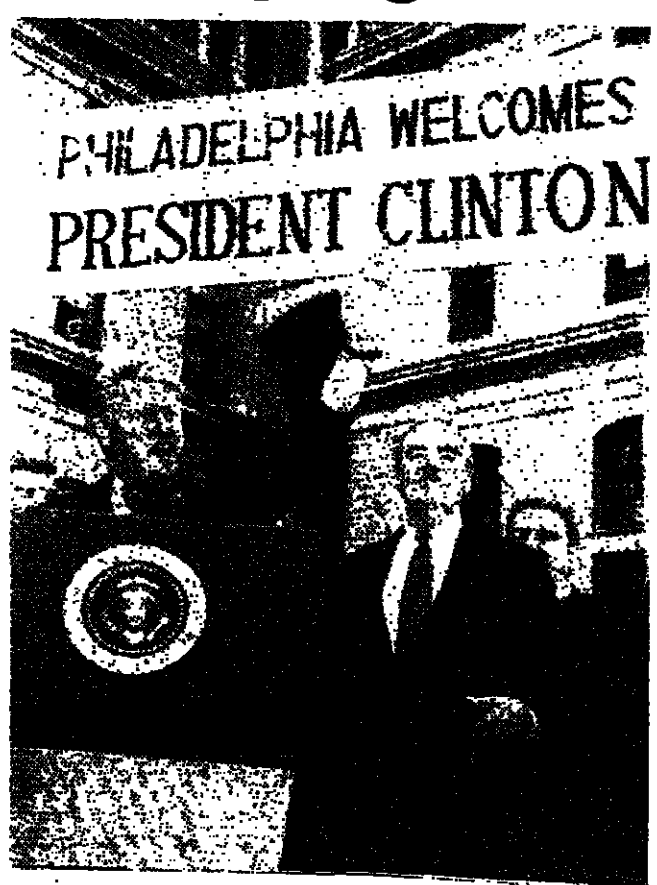
Democratic National Committee Chairman David Wilhelm, travelling with the president to this important political state, predicted that Democrats would do no worse next week than the party of sitting presidents have historically done.

"We have no illusion about how tough these midterms will be. But the tide is turning," Mr. Wilhelm told reporters at the airport here.

He said Democrats are slowly convincing voters that Republicans are not looking out for ordinary Americans. "People are saying, 'wait a minute. I don't want tax cuts for big business. I don't want tax cuts for the wealthy. I don't want to run up the deficit. I don't want cuts in social security.'"

The president's standing among voters was no doubt helped by a series of foreign policy successes, including occupying Haiti, standing up to Iraq's Saddam Hussein and last week's Middle East trip where he witnessed the historic Israel-Jordan peace treaty.

Almost immediately after returning home from the Mideast Saturday, Mr. Clinton returned to his political agenda.



U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) campaigns incumbent Senator Harris Wofford (2nd R) at Philadelphia City Hall. Mr. Clinton is travelling the country this week in support of Democrats running in this year's elections (AFP photo)

World

China pledge

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Freedom has a price in Taiwan

TAIPEI (AFP) — Pe- who return captive be- the wild may be taken fined 150,000 Taiwan dollars (US\$7,600) under the amended Wildlife Conservation Law. Under the revised law, releasing of both protected and non-protected species, including birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish and other aquatic animals, is considered a crime. The agriculture officials, who are responsible for enforcing the law, said they would be strict in punishing those who violate the law. The animals are rarely able to return to their original habitats, they added. The law also provides for the release of animals to the wild, but only if they are healthy and able to survive. The law also provides for the release of animals to the wild, but only if they are healthy and able to survive.

China pledges to promote peace in Korea

SEOUL (R) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, on the second day of a ground-breaking trip to South Korea, promised Tuesday to play a constructive role in easing cold war tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Meeting his South Korean counterpart Lee Yung-Dug, Mr. Li said China believed peace and stability on the peninsula was essential for peace in Asia.

"Prime Minister Li said China will play a constructive role in promoting peace on the peninsula," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told a news briefing.

He quoted Mr. Li, the highest Chinese Communist official ever to visit South Korea, as saying he saw huge potential to develop already substantial trade and economic ties.

The South Korean prime minister responded by saying the South did not intend to unify the Korean peninsula by absorbing the Communist North, a Seoul government spokesman said.

President Kim Young-Sam, meeting Mr. Li at the president's official residence, the Blue House, Monday asked for China's help in ensuring the North kept its part of a nuclear deal with the United States.

The North Tuesday said it had halted construction of two controversial graphite-moderated reactors in line with the deal signed in Geneva last month.

"We have already begun making practical steps to put it (the pact) into effect," a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by the Korean Central News Agency monitored in Tokyo.

"The DPRK (North Korean) Administration Council decided to stop the construction of the 50,000 and 80,000 kilowatt graphite-moderated reactors from the beginning of November," the official news service said.

Under the Oct. 21 accord, the United States said it would assemble an interna-



North Korean leader Kim Jong-il gestures during his inspection tour of a tomb of an ancient Korean king (AFP photo)

have an equal place in Beijing's affections. While the People's Daily and other newspapers gave over the left of the front page to Li's trip, the right hand side had a photograph and story about the meeting of president and Communist Party head Jiang Zemin with North Korean officials.

Mr. Li toured a car plant owned by Daewoo motor company at Puyong west of Seoul Tuesday afternoon. In July Daewoo signed a \$2 billion deal to build a car parts factory in Shandong province.

Mr. Kim told Mr. Li he was willing to hold a summit with North Korea's Kim Jong-il, son and political heir of late "great leader" Kim Il-Sung, if he officially assumed the leadership titles of his father.

North Korea is Communist China's oldest friend, with links forged by the 1950-53 Korean War when Chinese "volunteers" saved the North from defeat. China suffered a million dead or wounded in that conflict.

But in today's China the magic word is economics not politics and the country is eagerly courting South Korean trade and investment.

China's national newspapers played a careful balancing game Tuesday to indicate that North and South Korea

forces deployed along the border with South Korea. South Korean Defence Minister Rhee Byoung-Tae said in parliament Tuesday the North maintained its capability to mass-produce chemical weapons.

But Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo told parliament the Seoul government was working on a new programme to seek détente, cooperation and an eventual reunification of the two Koreas, divided after World War II.

Mr. Lee said Monday the South would soon offer to restart economic exchanges with North Korea.

Under the Geneva deal, North Korea agreed to freeze its nuclear programme based on graphite reactors.

The United States, in exchange, would organise an international consortium, including South Korea and Japan, to finance building of safer light-water reactors in North Korea.

Under the accord reached in the Zambian capital Lusaka, the government and UNITA are to declare a ceasefire.

Government troops had also been advancing on the UNITA stronghold of Huambo, a government source said.

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Bosnian army claims large gains southeast of Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Bosnian government forces Tuesday said they had taken some 50 square kilometres (20 square miles) of territory southeast of Sarajevo over the past few days.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was unable to confirm or refute the claim, saying their observers inside a demilitarised zone (DMZ) on Mount Igman, west of the battlefield, had lost sight of the combatants as the Bosnian offensive progressed over the hilly terrain.

UNPROFOR earlier confirmed that Muslim-led forces, who launched their latest attack in the area at dawn Saturday, had smashed through frontline Serb defences and seized nearby heights from which they could bombard a Serb-held main road heading southeast out of Sarajevo.

The Bosnian 1st Army Corps said in a press release Tuesday that its forces had killed 70 to 80 Serb soldiers in the latest offensive and seized seven T-55 tanks, along with several armoured personnel carriers.

A senior U.N. officer suggested the Serbs might have been forced to abandon their tanks because of lack of fuel, as was the case last week on the northwestern Bihac front where government forces have scored an important success.

This would confirm that U.N. sanctions, associated with the blockade by Serbia of fuel supplies to Bosnian Serbs, was now hurting their

war effort, the officer suggested. Government forces were closing in on the Trnovo road but had not yet reached it, according to the 1st Army Corps.

Corps Commander General Vahid Karavelic has issued an order to his troops to treat Serb civilians "humanely," according to the statement which listed a number of places as "liberated." None of these appeared to consist of more than a small village.

Gen. Karavelic also said that the effect of the offensive "would have been even greater if UNPROFOR hadn't prevented our units from coming from the direction of Igman."

UNPROFOR has repeatedly protested at the use made of the Igman DMZ by government troops who deployed howitzers there to shell the Serbs at the start of the attack.

In Zagreb, Croatia, UNPROFOR officials said three U.N. Bangladeshi soldiers and five civilians were wounded in overnight artillery exchanges in Bosnia's northwestern Bihac enclave.

One Bangladeshi was injured Monday evening when two shells slammed into the ground yards from his observation post in the vicinity of Otaka in the north of the pocket, sustaining slight injuries to his arms and legs.

Intense artillery exchanges continued overnight around nearby Bosanska Krupa, where heavy fighting has been raging since last week

between Sarajevo government forces and Bosnian Serbs, an UNPROFOR spokesman said in Zagreb.

The situation was "extremely tense, and the balance of forces could change at any moment," he said.

Bosanska Krupa remained in Serb hands, but Bosnian government soldiers had surrounded it and tried several times to seize control, so far unsuccessfully, he said.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serb forces said Tuesday they had recaptured some of the territory lost to Muslim forces over the past few days.

The Serb counter-thrust began Monday afternoon on front lines around the Serb-held town of Bosanski Petrovac, according to Brian Graham, an official with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Banja Luka, another Serb-controlled community in western Bosnia.

He said the number of ambulances leaving and returning to Banja Luka had noticeably increased late in the day.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic earlier Monday declared that Serb forces had turned back government offensives in both the north-west and south central Bosnia.

"Muslim activities have been stopped and conditions have been met to pursue tasks related to the state of war," the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) quoted Mr. Karadzic as saying after a meeting with his military leaders in Bosanski Petrovac.

Mr. Karadzic last Friday vowed that his partisans would stage a major counter-offensive after resurgent government troops broke out of the northwest Bihac pocket and captured some 250 square kilometres of Serb-held territory in a matter of days.

Alan Roberts, U.N. military spokesman in Serb-controlled territory in Croatia, meanwhile said it appeared that the regular army had halted its campaign in western Bosnia.

He said his office had received no hard information on a continued government move in the Bihac pocket, adding that Bosnian army troops encircling the town of Bosanska Krupa — located on the northern edge of the pocket — had tried two or three times to capture it from Serb units.

Bosnian Serb officials insisted the offensive had been checked and that government forces had suffered numerous casualties, notably in the Grmec range where 24 soldiers were killed and three captured.

Russia called Tuesday for "measures" to halt attacks by Sarajevo forces on Serbs in northwestern Bosnia.

The attack by Bosnian forces against the Serbs is "a challenge to the United Nations" which "shows that the Muslims have decided to resolve the conflict by arms," Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin told reporters here. "It would be catastrophic if nothing was done to stop it."

Over-use closes Dutch electronic porn archives

THE HAGUE (AFP) — So many people accessed the electronic pornography archives at a Dutch library that the service had to be closed Sunday.

The service had been closed since the weekend of October 29-30, when the library's electronic pornography archives were accessed by so many people that the service had to be closed.

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Oscar winner Paquin offered role in Pinocchio

WILMINGTON, AT — A young actress who won the Oscar for best young actress in 1993 for her role in "The Piano" has been offered a role in the new film "Pinocchio".

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U.S., S. Korea begin war games as North protests

SEOUL (R) — The United States and South Korea launched a week of military exercises Tuesday despite last month's U.S.-North Korean nuclear agreement, prompting an angry protest from Pyongyang.

North Korea said Tuesday it had halted construction of two controversial reactors as part of last month's Geneva accord with the United States, which was aimed at reshaping its nuclear programme.

The exercise, designed to test rear area protection operations, started as planned, a South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The South Korean army's Capital Garrison Command, responsible for protecting Seoul, also began a separate four-day exercise in and around the city, the spokesman said.

Only two weeks ago the United States and South Korea cancelled their major Team Spirit military exercise

to help encourage North Korea to forego its nuclear programme, which the West believes is also aimed at producing nuclear arms.

"The war exercises are a premeditated provocation to keep the situation on the Korean peninsula strained and incite North-South confrontation," Pyongyang's official Korea Central News Agency said Tuesday.

The agency accused South Korea of trying to wreck the Geneva deal, which calls for improving relations between Pyongyang and Washington.

"The exercises are a display of their reckless war frenzy to throw a wet blanket over the framework agreement between the DPRK (North Korea) and the United States," further aggravate North-South relations and drive the situation on the Korean peninsula back to the brink of war," it said.

The Defence Ministry spokesman in Seoul brushed aside the North's charges

against the South as the "usual predictable propaganda." He said the joint field training exercise, condemned Foal Eagle 1994, was an annual event separate from Team Spirit for which tens of thousands of U.S. troops are flown in.

"We face real threats from North Korea and it is important to hone our military capability to cope with such threats," he added.

Foal Eagle involves the majority of more than 36,000 American troops stationed in South Korea and 650,000 local soldiers, but none from outside the area.

Last month U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry told a news conference in Seoul the United States would not ease its guard against North Korea despite their Geneva deal.

Mr. Perry said the United States would not cut its forces in the South until North Korea reduced its massive

forces deployed along the border with South Korea.

South Korean Defence Minister Rhee Byoung-Tae said in parliament Tuesday the North maintained its capability to mass-produce chemical weapons.

But Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo told parliament the Seoul government was working on a new programme to seek détente, cooperation and an eventual reunification of the two Koreas, divided after World War II.

Mr. Lee said Monday the South would soon offer to restart economic exchanges with North Korea.

Under the Geneva deal, North Korea agreed to freeze its nuclear programme based on graphite reactors.

Rwandan Hutus kill 36 in cross-border attack

NAIROBI (R) — A "band of criminals" from Zaire killed 36 people in an attack on a border area of northwest Rwanda and fled back to Zaire, state-run Rwandan Radio said Tuesday.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said three families were attacked in Kinyinyovu sector and at Byali in Gisenyi prefecture Monday night.

It said the "band of criminals" then fled back into Zaire.

The BBC report gave no more details of the attack, which it confirmed is the worst involving Rwandans since gunmen butchered 54 Rwandan refugees in a border village in northern Burundi on Oct. 24.

U.N. officials have said defeated Rwandan militiamen and troops loyal to the former Hutu government who fled into Zaire when rebels won a three-month civil war in Rwanda in July have been harassing and attacking residents in border areas.

An estimated 1.3 million Rwandan refugees live in Zaire including tens of thousands of Rwandan militiamen and troops.

The former government in Zaire has accused the victorious Rwanda Patriotic Army of slaughtering returning refugees. The new gov-

ernment in Kigali has said there were isolated cases of revenge killings but no systematic campaign.

Rwandan soldiers armed with rocket-propelled grenades surrounded 10 Australian peacekeepers in a standoff that lasted several hours, a U.N. military spokesman said Tuesday.

"It's a serious incident, the first one of its kind," said Captain Stephen Grenier.

Capt. Grenier said the Australians were travelling in an armoured personnel carrier to investigate an outbreak of shooting in Kigali's Kicukiro suburb at dusk Monday when they were stopped by soldiers of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

The Australians ran one RPF checkpoint but were held up minutes later when 30 heavily-armed soldiers surrounded their vehicle.

"An RPF liaison officer finally came down and defused the tension," said Capt. Grenier.

Capt. Grenier said U.N. military observers had reported that a family was being attacked in the crowded Kicukiro district. He said he had no further details about the incident.

U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) officials say they are seeing a growing trend of robbery and violence by RPF soldiers who

won the bloody civil war three months ago but have yet to receive any salaries from the impoverished government.

Relations between the U.N.'s 5,000-strong military force, which includes 300 Australians, and Rwanda's new government are generally good although blue helmets have been denied access to some insecure areas.

Meanwhile hundreds of villagers have been killed in ethnic clashes in the hills of northeast Zaire triggered by the influx of Hutu refugees fleeing Rwanda, aid workers said.

They say the arrival of thousands of Hutus, many of them heavily armed, in the hills 50 kilometres northwest of the town of Goma had exacerbated decades-old tensions between local Zaireans and villagers of Rwandan origin.

Since late September, local Hutu tribesmen and Hutu villagers — some born in Zaire, some recent arrivals from Rwanda — had been raiding each others villages, looting, stealing cattle and setting fire to huts.

Aid agencies visiting the Masisi region estimate about 250 villagers had died in the clashes and 32,500 people, including 22,700 Hutus and 9,700 Hunde, fled their homes.

Mozambican leader's election lead looks strong

MAPUTO (AFP) — Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano seems likely to win last week's post civil war elections with a large majority according to latest projections.

According to United Nations and international observer sources who monitored elections, Mr. Chissano is likely to win with a majority of between 54 and 55 per cent of the presidential vote.

The same sources suggest Mr. Chissano's key rival opposition leader, Afonso Dhlakama, is likely to win some 35 per cent of the national vote, held under U.N. supervision and in terms of a May 1991 peace pact.

These predictions suggest a second round of voting to decide the presidential victor

will not be necessary. U.N. and international observer estimates put Mr. Chissano's ruling Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) party ahead of Mr. Dhlakama's ex-guerrilla force, which waged war on the formerly Marxist regime after independence from Portugal in 1975 at the cost of a million lives.

In the parliamentary polls, estimates indicated that both FRELIMO and the formerly rebel Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) parties are trailing behind their leaders.

U.N. sources estimate that around 48 per cent of the legislative vote will go to FRELIMO and some 42 per cent to RENAMO, suggesting a bi-polar parliament.

However, the Brazilian public relations company that has been promoting FRELIMO's campaign predicts a 60 per cent win for its client against 28 per cent of the vote for RENAMO.

Such a result could raise cries of foul from RENAMO, which has repeatedly claimed that fraud was being planned to defeat them.

The National Elections Commission has 15 days following the three-day elections, which finished Saturday, to announce the official results at provincial and national levels.

The failure of any candidate in the presidential race — which also saw 10 minor contenders — to win an outright majority of 50 per cent plus one vote would entail a second round within three

weeks of the announcement. The State Department said Monday it was "very pleased and encouraged" with the results of weekend elections held in Mozambique that crowned a two-year peace process in the southern African country.

Deputy Secretary of State George Moose told a news conference that initial results showed turnout to be between 80 and 90 per cent.

"I think that's remarkable considering the difficulties that people faced in going to the polls," he said.

"I think it's also a very clear indication of the desire, strong desire, on the part of Mozambicans to put the past, the most recent 10 to 15 years of Mozambican history behind them," he added.

Charles, Diana marriage was 'troubled on honeymoon'

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles's marriage to Princess Diana began to unravel on honeymoon and was in serious trouble within 12 months of their fairytale wedding in 1981, an authorised biography of the heir to the throne revealed Tuesday.

"The Prince of Wales," which went on sale Tuesday, paints Princess Diana as a neurotic young woman not averse to emotional blackmail and capable of conniving with the press to get her own back on the heir to the throne.

By contrast, author Jonathan Dimbleby goes out of his way to portray Prince Charles as a heroic figure battling against Princess Diana's moods, a warm, caring father and husband misunderstood by his wife and the British public.

"It is not perhaps too fanciful to suppose that future generations will judge that in the latter half of the 20th century Britain was blessed to have as heir to the throne an individual of singular distinction and virtue," the 566-page book ends.

Mr. Dimbleby reveals that a summer honeymoon spent cruising the Mediterranean

highlighted the couple's incompatibility and showed Princess Diana how difficult and lonely her life was to become.

Prince Charles, spent his time on the royal yacht Britannia swimming, sailing, writing letters and reading a study of the Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung.

"Diana dashes about chatting up all the sailors and the cooks in the galley etc. while I remain hermit-like on the veranda deck," Prince Charles noted in his diary.

The book's author writes that Princess Diana was bemused by her husband's lack of romance and suffered a "canter of jealousy" about his former affair with Camilla Parker Bowles.

"So far from being the focus of her husband's attention, he seemed to go out of his way to avoid the moments of intimacy with her that she craved," said the book, portions of which have been serialised in the Sunday Times.

Within months, Princess Diana was breaking down in tears ahead of public engagements and was spending hours with the prince's advisers complaining about her husband and her new "job".

"During bouts of unhappiness, the princess would sit hunched on a chair, her head on her knees, quite inconsolable," the book says. Her mood swings became more violent and unpredictable — once she drove off alone into the night in great distress.

Mr. Dimbleby's description of Princess Diana in the months before the birth of her son, Prince William, in June 1982 is littered with phrases like "self-pity... extraordinarily self-absorbed... volatile."

Her mood did not improve after his birth. She showed the first signs of the eating disorder, bulimia, and attempted suicide on several occasions. According to Mr. Dimbleby, Prince Charles tried his best to soothe his wife.

"Battered by the workload of his own official life, lacking the emotional support at home to which, in his romantic fashion, he had for so long aspired, and drained by the persistence of his wife's reproaches, he did sometimes rebuff her," he writes.

In late 1982, Prince Charles arranged for Princess Diana to see a psychiatrist. But Princess Diana remained

convinced Prince Charles was conspiring against her and forced him to drop many friends.

"Apparently in the hope of securing his wife's peace of mind, the prince was even known to have surrendered his Labrador, Harvey, at the princess's insistence, but for no reason that anyone could fathom," the book says.

Within five years, the marriage had collapsed even if formal separation did not come until 1992. And, according to Mr. Dimbleby's account, it was very largely Princess Diana's fault.

"Whatever clinical or psychiatric label was appropriate to the princess's distress, its effect on her marriage to the prince could hardly be in doubt," Mr. Dimbleby says. Prince Charles resumed his relationship with Mrs. Parker Bowles in 1986.

The book does not, as stated in media reports based on the extracts, claim Prince Charles never loved Princess Diana. But it indicates Prince Charles was not exactly besotted by his young bride.

"The princess was no less a victim, trapped in a marriage drained of life by the absence of love," it says.

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On edge of anarchy

THE BREAKDOWN of the efforts to bridge the gap between the government in Algeria and the forces loyal to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) could be a prelude to a civil war in the country. More than 10,000 Algerians have already been killed in the civil strife that ensued after the abrupt ending of the democratic process in early 1992. Algerian leader Liamine Zeroual is on the verge of announcing the failure of his attempts to engage the "FIS" in a meaningful dialogue predicated on the FIS's denunciation of violence. This much the Islamist forces were not prepared to do short of receiving ironclad assurances that they would be allowed to reap the results of the parliamentary elections in January of 1992. What adds credence to the prospects of gloom and doom in the North African Arab country is the sudden promotion of Algerian strongman General Mohammad Amari to the rank of full general as a prelude to his assumption of the minister of defence post. Gen. Amari is reputed to be a hardliner and was behind the decision to abort the 1992 elections when the FIS was poised to win them. It must be said in retrospect, however, that the FIS did not play its cards well. The demand that its leaders accept to renounce terrorism should have been accepted as a gesture of goodwill and tolerance. By rejecting this request outright, the FIS leadership under Abbas Madani simply played into the hands of Algerian hardliners who wanted nothing more than ending the efforts of President Zeroual to talk business with the Islamists.

The FIS and other opposition groups will be well-advised to put more faith in a peaceful dialogue with the central government. This is the only route to encourage moderation within the government of President Zeroual. There is nothing more damaging to the cause of the peace effort in Algeria than to have the president resign as a reaction to the failure of his efforts to settle the situation in a peaceful and reasonable way. Likewise, the government should in turn promote confidence in its bid to find a modus vivendi with the opposition factions. To begin with, the government must not only speak with one tongue but also refrain from sending conflicting signals to the other side. As long as Zeroual and Amari speak two different languages to the FIS and sing two different tunes on the prospects of peaceful negotiations with it there can be no solid foundation for pursuing this goal.

At the same time, the Arab World cannot just sit idle and watch Algeria fall into a state of anarchy. This is the time for genuine Arab and indeed international efforts to defuse the conflict by advancing active mediation efforts. The alternative is simply too costly not only to Algerians but to the entire region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING on the Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Casablanca, a columnist in Al Dustour Tuesday said that the delegations which presented their cases had great hopes that the meeting would come up with definite ideas to help their countries to achieve the development. Mohammad Kawash said that this large gathering of politicians and economists as well as business people from 60 nations has the potential to help countries in the Middle East and North Africa to attain their objectives, provided good intentions and strong will exist. The poor Arab states taking part in the meeting have expressed hope that the conference would usher in a "Marshall Plan" for the region to end its poverty and help its people to attain a better standard of living, said the writer. We do not want to see this conference and aspirations for economic help going up in thin air and vanishing with the conclusion of the conference, and we do not wish to see our dreams reflected only on paper, said the writer. What we want, he said, is practical steps that would lead to a revival of the national economies of the participating poor nations, which also earn for just peace and security, he said. The writer said that the reconstruction of the region and the strengthening of its economy probably require one quarter of the total funds spent on the Gulf war and the industrialised nations, said the writer, are duty bound to come up with the larger part of these funds if they are really concerned with stability, security and peace in our region.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily criticised the way teachers are selected for their jobs in Jordan, saying that the Ministry of Education never considers the type of personality it presents to the students. Ahmad Ararat said that much of the education process depends on the teacher and his or her ability to impart knowledge and attract the interest of students. In most cases, he said, teachers are given their jobs if they hold a university degree but seldom does the ministry examine the teachers' personalities and their real culture and their eligibility and fitness to serve as good examples for the young generation. Indeed, Arab states, which send delegations to conclude contracts with teachers from Jordan to teach students in their schools, interview the candidates in order to sound out their real qualifications apart from the degrees they hold, noted the writer. Furthermore, he said, the line of people awaiting appointment as teachers is getting longer year after year, with the result that the waiting people tend to lose touch of the knowledge they had obtained in

The treaty: Its significance for Jordan and the Arabs

By Cecil Hourani

The signature of a Treaty of Peace between Jordan and Israel marks the end of one era in the history of the Near East in the 20th century, and the beginning of a new one. The era which has ended began with two documents: The Sykes-Picot Agreements of 1915 which delineated the areas of the Ottoman provinces in the Near East between British and French zones of influence; and the Balfour Declaration in 1917 which engaged the British government in the establishment of a "Jewish National Home" in Palestine.

The second document radically altered the way in which the British and French zones of influence were finally defined. The promoters of the Jewish National Home were able to influence successive British governments to enlarge their area of interest to include the whole of Palestine and trans-Jordan, and limit the French area to Syria and Lebanon.

The inclusion of both the western and eastern sides of the River Jordan in the territories placed by the League of Nations under British mandate posed a problem for the British government: On the one hand they had acquired in the establishment in trans-Jordan of an Arab government under Abdullah Ibn Hussein, and on the other hand they were under constant pressure from the Zionist movement to permit Jewish land purchases and settlement on both sides of the Jordan.

This problem was solved by the first British High Commissioner in Palestine who effectively separated trans-Jordan from the area in which the British had undertaken to create the Jewish National Home. It was thus the achievement of King Abdullah to limit the scope of the Balfour Declaration to Palestine, although the Zionist movement represented by the Jewish Agency continued to consider that trans-Jordan was part of territory which had been "promised" them by the Balfour Declaration, the terms of which had been included in the League of Nations mandate to Great Britain.

The Zionist movement accepted reluctantly the United Nations decision in 1947 to partition Palestine between an Arab and a Jewish state with economic union because it limited the area of the Jewish state. The refusal of the Palestinians and the neighbouring Arab states to accept the partition, and the wars of 1948/9 and 1967 enabled the Jewish state to enlarge the areas under its control to include the entire territory of mandatory Palestine.

The continuing failure of the international community to impose definitive frontiers on the state of Israel, and the de facto frontiers between Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon established by the Rhodes armistice agreements, encouraged the growth inside Israel of an opinion favourable to the retention of the whole of the territory of mandatory Palestine on the ground that the Arab state envisaged by the U.N. partition plan now existed in Jordan. The slogan "Jordan is Palestine" encapsulated this idea.

The Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty puts an end once and

for all to the possibility that a future Israeli government might revive this claim, or perhaps encourage or promote the transfer of further Palestinian populations from the occupied territories into Jordan.

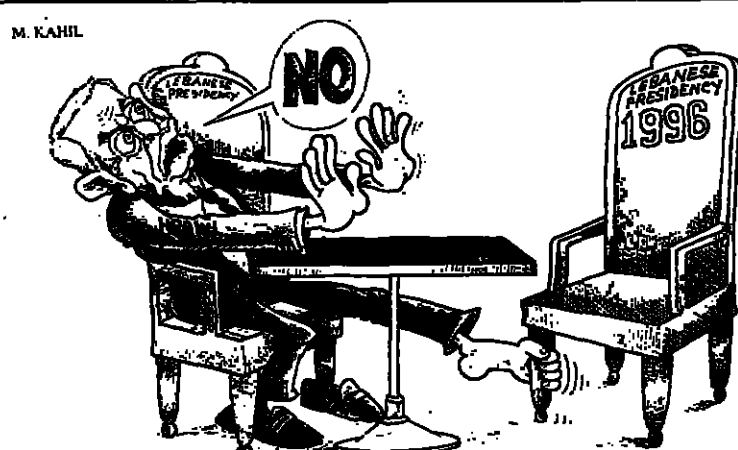
Apart from the material and moral benefits which the treaty will bring to the people on both sides of the River Jordan, it serves the Arab cause in two important ways:

— In the first place, it makes a final definition of Israel's longest frontier, and precludes any possible expansion across the River Jordan. The security of Jordan, and of the countries adjacent to it, is thereby placed under the rule of international law governing the relations of sovereign states.

— In the second place, the treaty serves the Palestinian cause by eliminating the possibility of the "Jordan is Palestine" syndrome, thereby placing on Israel the unambiguous responsibility of helping to bring into existence the Arab state in Palestine, without which its own legitimacy as the creation of the international community remains in suspense.

These two positive merits of the Jordanian-Israeli Treaty far outweigh the negative criticisms emanating from some quarters which have either failed or not wished to understand its true significance.

The writer is a prominent Arab political scientist based in London. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.



The environmental dimension of peace

By Dr. Maher Fathi Abu Taleb

WITH the dawn of a new peace between Jordan and Israel and the promise of billions of dollars of development projects, there comes a renewed responsibility and commitment to our environment. When confronted with the issues of development versus the environment, the usual questions come to mind: How will development projects affect our environment? Will expansion of industrial sites impact on our cultural heritage? Will protection of the environment be taken into consideration? Though seemingly complicated, these and many other similar questions and concerns have a simple answer. But before delving quickly into the solution, I would like to discuss the apparent dichotomy between development and the environment.

Many people believe that one cannot have development projects that cater to a society's needs without necessarily destroying the environment. As examples, these people cite the depletion of the ozone layer, the continued destruction of the Amazonian rainforests, the overfishing of Southeast Asian and Canadian fisheries, or the damage to wetlands such as the Azraq Oasis.

But all these environmental problems, and so many others, have, as their root cause, the inadequacy of environmental protection to begin with. So, in addressing ozone depletion,

rainforest destruction, fisheries depletion and habitat degradation, one invariably finds that the optimal economic solutions are always in harmony with environmental protection. Industries are moving away from producing chemicals that are harmful to the atmosphere and finding it profitable to do so. Rainforests in some areas of the world are slowly being replanted for their continued timber value and for potential profits from ecotourism. Halting random and accelerated fishing patterns and slowly moving to steady state consumption of fisheries is far more beneficial for everyone. And the almost irreversible destruction of the Azraq Oasis in Jordan, a wetland with international significance, has been addressed through better management of the area and through new development projects that ease the pressure off Azraq.

Most, if not all, international donor organisations have recognised the need to perform environmental impact assessment (EIA) along with project feasibility and planning. An EIA, for a development project permits us to view the potential environmental damage and any environmental enhancements. The enhancements can be further strengthened and/or environmental damage mitigated through acceptable measures. The EIA process also allows for the

inclusion of alternatives within the specific project in question. The final feasibility or plan thus produces a project with minimal negative environmental impact with potentially less costly capital expenditures.

So, by utilising EIA guidelines, one can determine in a professional way the adequacy of a project. But how about these guidelines? Where do they come from? And whose purpose do they serve?

Over the past decade, many international donor organisations have developed their own environmental assessment guidelines based on previous research and experience in developed countries. These guidelines are used to evaluate projects for adequacy by taking into account the issues that donor organisations feel are important. Specific country guidelines are usually not available.

Let us now return to our earlier questions. It seems apparent that in the context of Jordan, the availability of EIA guidelines and the acceptance of EIA as a project planning and development tool would essentially impact confidence to all of us that projects have no detrimental environmental effects. But the problem is that Jordan has thus far not passed a comprehensive environmental law and thus does not have an agency that can "check" the EIAs for accuracy and comprehensiveness.

The fear is that environmental regulations would stunt investment and endanger growth. But, if Jordan had its own set of environmental laws, legislation, and EIA guidelines governing all aspects of development, the reverse would be true. Knowing just what rules and regulations are in existence, and what monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are used, would necessarily impart confidence to investors in an otherwise uncertain investment climate. Thus, investment would be expected to increase.

Development and environmental protection are becoming synonymous all over the world, because the environmental dimension is currently considered early in project planning. Thus, the fear that development will cause environmental damage cannot be technically justified. However, the lack of environmental management policies, legislation, incentives, regulations and specific country guidelines in Jordan implies that the country may initially have to suffer environmentally because of development projects before it can ever hope to reverse any environmental damage, if such damage is reversible.

The writer is president of Environmental Resources Management Consultants of Amman. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

A content employee is a productive employee

To the Editor:

AFTER READING an article in a recent daily newspaper regarding Third World nations and the approach of the 21st century, my mind went into a roller coaster, trying to conceive ideas of measures that a "Third World nation" can implement, to join the class, or to gain the title of "First World nation."

The first thing that came to mind was free enterprise, second was privatisation of many government services, (i.e. postal, sanitation, telephone etc.), in order to relieve government of many unnecessary burdens. Third and perhaps most important, and must go hand in hand with the rest, is a minimum wage standard.

Free enterprise promotes competition, better products and improved services at competitive prices. Therefore the general public would gain considerably, by being able to compare products and deciding the fair price and the better deal. Manufacturers and suppliers then will have to consistently work harder to improve quality and reduce prices.

Privatisation is essential for the numerous benefits it can also offer and create. First, it will reduce government burden. Many present government agencies can be turned over to the public in a relatively painless change over. For example, privatising sanitation (garbage collection), a private contractor can be contracted by government to collect trash in the normal schedule and in a similar method, and keeping mostly the same employees, for a certain amount of compensation. Additionally, the contractor can offer additional services to those who wish to use them, for an additional price, such as door pick up or collection of excessive amounts such as construction and remodelling debris. That contractor can also ask customers to implement such programmes as trash separation for recycling and disposal ease, and offer discounts and incentives for those who participate, thus perhaps creating more jobs.

Minimum wage standards will not only improve job satisfaction, but will also improve labour output. A satisfied and content employee is a productive employee. Higher wages mean less imported cheaper labour, which often translates to needing two or more to perform the job of one. Thus you will find that national unemployment will take a dive. Talented and educated people will find it better to stay home and work, instead of going to foreign countries to earn a living. All over the world, a worker that has decent living conditions, goes to work production minded, knowing that his job is the means of maintaining his living standards.

Implementing partial changes will hurt more than improve, you must go all the way to make it work. The world is quickly changing, moving like a speed train, and unless we purchase a ticket, we will find ourselves waiting at the terminals.

Nadim Al Jaoumi,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Do Clinton's foreign policy successes help?

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Even the good times don't come easy for Bill Clinton.

By most measures, the U.S. president is doing better in foreign policy than at any point in the White House and still there is much debate over the nature of those accomplishments.

Many supporters believe he has gained his footing as a world leader while the unrelenting critics continue to point up the weak spots in his foreign policy.

Mr. Clinton's quick response to Iraq's recent massing of troops on Kuwait's border won the widest praise. He deployed U.S. forces to the region and warned President Saddam Hussein any future Iraqi build-up would be met with military action.

But a new nuclear deal with North Korea and the

so far relatively peaceful intervention in Haiti are in some ways more complicated, more risky and more controversial.

"The contrast between the firm line Clinton has taken with Iraq's sabre-rattling and the 'let's make a deal' approach that followed with troublemakers in Haiti and North Korea is striking and troubling," wrote columnist Jim Hoagland.

Many analysts say Mr. Clinton's October decision on Iraq was relatively easy because the stage was set by former president George Bush in the 1991 Gulf war that ousted Iraq from Kuwait.

"In general, I think he has found his stride... although I never thought it (Clinton's foreign policy) was catastrophic," said Patrick Glynn of the American Enterprise Institute.

He said Iraq is key because Mr. Clinton "was able to use Saddam's challenge to establish his credi-

bility as a tough guy and a decisive president responding to a crisis."

But a U.S. official said he thought the pivotal point was Mr. Clinton's September decision to send troops to Haiti which forced the regime to leave power peacefully. "Finally we're no longer spooked about using force as an element of diplomacy," he told Reuters.

The positive turn comes because of patience and hard work, he said. "We're more disciplined about stating our objectives, keeping our eye on the ball and not overreacting."

Maybe so. Negotiations to persuade Haiti's dictators to restore democratically elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide to power failed until Mr. Clinton threatened to invade — a decision at odds with his personal history and unpopular with the American people.

U.S. efforts to get Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programme were on a perilous course towards war last summer until former president Jimmy Carter sparked new bilateral talks.

But those achievements could yet disintegrate. Haiti is still a volatile test case for democracy. The North Korea accord required U.S. concessions and it could be years before it is known if Pyongyang will honour its commitments.

But North Korea's nuclear threat is arguably Mr. Clinton's most daunting international challenge and a deal that offers the serious prospect of Pyongyang giving up its nuclear arms programme peacefully is preferable to war.

Mr. Clinton, for political reasons if nothing else, had to stem the exodus of Haitian boat people to U.S. shores. Better to improve the situation in Haiti so the people will stay home.

He also gets high marks for Russia policy although some fear he concedes Moscow a free hand in other

ex-Soviet states.

Frayed ties with China improved after Mr. Clinton last June scuttled a campaign promise to tie trade benefits to human rights and decided to look more broadly at the relationship.

Since questions are raised about even the most successful of these policies, some experts wonder if Mr. Clinton will ever recover from the early months of his presidency when Bosnia, which remains a blot, Haiti and Somalia cast the first serious doubts about his strength and conviction as a leader.

"I don't think the president has turned a corner. I don't think we're out of the woods with respect to error-proneness in this administration's foreign policy," said Adam Garfinkle of the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia.

Mr. Glynn said: "If (former president Ronald) Reagan was the teflon president (to whom no blame stuck), then Clinton is the

velcro president. Everything he does wrong tends to stick."

A major question is whether the improved foreign policy fortunes have won a reprieve for Secretary of State Warren Christopher, whom many viewed as vulnerable to replacement.

Aides say he insisted on a specific departure date for Haiti's dictators, defended chief negotiator on North Korea Robert Gallucci against internal detractors and helped win South Korea's agreement to the deal. But many experts find it hard to see what role Mr. Christopher plays except in the Middle East.

Nevertheless, as Richard Haas — former advisor to George Bush — said: "It is less likely that a president would change personnel if things are perceived to be going well... Any change would be interpreted as an admission that the president has a point."

Israel hopes

(Continued from page 12)

Shimon Peres met here with his close aide, Yehoshua Geler, to discuss the prospects for a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

The two men discussed the prospects for a peace agreement with the Palestinians, and the possibility of a new round of negotiations.

Peres said that the Israeli government was committed to a peace agreement with the Palestinians, and that he was confident that such an agreement would be reached in the near future.

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the Arab

Israel hopes for Gulf ties

(Continued from page 12)

Shimon Peres met here with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Hamad bin Jasssem Al Thani to discuss joint projects on Monday.

The two men discussed an Israeli project to import Qatari natural gas, officials said.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Israeli and Arab businessmen also met on the sidelines of the conference to discuss possible joint ventures and cooperation.

One Gulf executive said the boycott would not stand in the way of Arab businessmen at the summit.

"To be frank, the boycott is on its way out. It is just a matter of officially announcing its end now," said the Qatari construction industry executive.

"I am sure there will be cooperation on a big scale between Israel and Arab countries soon."

Rob Levin, from a U.S. investment company looking to bring Arab investors and Israeli companies together, said the conference should help to bring the boycott to an effective end.

"Arab leaders will have to send out a positive message to encourage private business," said Mr. Levin, president of Sierra Capital Management.

Around 100 Israeli businessmen came to the conference in the hope of finding a foothold in the Arab market.

David Propper, head of the Association of Israeli Economic Organisations, said he had made contacts at all levels with businessmen from Morocco, Egypt and the UAE.

Mr. Christopher said Monday the United States hopes for a complete end to the Arab boycott of Israel at the next meeting of the Arab League.

Mr. Christopher did not specify whether Arab countries had given pledges to lift the boycott.

"We hope that at the next meeting of the Arab League there will be a strong move to end the boycott entirely," Mr. Christopher said.

Morocco's King Hassan II said in an interview with an Egyptian weekly Arab country had effectively abandoned their economic boycott of Israel by participating in the summit in Casablanca.

Responding to a question on whether the Casablanca conference marked the end of the boycott, the king said: "In fact, yes. There only remains the resolution of the Arab League Council. It will disappear one day, but this conference has made it (the boycott) meaningless."

He was speaking to the French-language Egyptian weekly Al-Ahram Hebdo, which appears Wednesday, and the international news network World Media.

"There is no going back" in the Arab-Israeli peace process and that "the river never

returns to its source," even though there may be events that block peacemaking efforts.

Syria on Tuesday lambasted the summit in Morocco, and warned that such forums paved the way for Israeli economic domination of the Middle East.

Syria and Lebanon have not yet come to terms with the Jewish state and oppose all efforts to end Israel's political and economic isolation in the region before a settlement.

Both boycotted the Casablanca meeting.

Tishrin, a leading government daily, warned in an editorial Tuesday of what it termed the dangers of allowing Israel to practise "economic hegemony on the Arabs' potentials and wealth."

Tishrin said Israel intended to achieve its "aggressive goals" through an economic "invasion."

"The economic boycott of Israel is a legitimate right so long as our lands are still under occupation... any talk about economic cooperation in the light of the continued Israeli occupation will be absolutely in the interest of the Jewish state," it noted.

"Holding the Casablanca conference at these delicate circumstances of the Middle East peace process, poses a big penetration of the Arab consensus and a flagrant violation of the joint Arab work," said Tishrin.

"Jumping over the components of a just and comprehensive peace will never serve the Arab rights nor does it contribute to forcing Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab lands," it added.

"This will constitute a gain for Israel, further complicate matters in the region and will give Israel a chance to avoid the components of the just and comprehensive peace," Tishrin said, adding that Israel has to commit itself to relinquishing occupied Arab territories in return for peace with its neighbours.

The main Palestinian Islamic opposition group also criticised Arab leaders for attending the summit in Casablanca, accusing them of accepting Israeli domination of the region.

"The conference, publicly and frankly, crowns the Zionist entity as the sole master for the entire Arab region," said a leaflet from the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

"Israel plans an economic breakthrough in the Arab markets," said the Hamas leaflet faxed to the Associated Press.

"The Arabs have made only false gains," it added, in reference to plans for regional development.

"The strong presence of Zionists at the meeting shows their desire to play a central role in the future Middle East market, where Israel will sell off its products and secure the raw materials it needs, especially oil and gas," Hamas said.

Five killed in Algeria blast

(Continued from page 12)

no such elections in Algeria without a real multi-party system, and there cannot be a multi-party system without the FIS," Mr. Haddam said.

The FIS was banned after serious violence began in February 1992, a month after the second round of the country's first free general election following independence, once it became clear the fundamentalist party was poised to sweep the polls. The parliament was scrapped.

It remained to be seen whether Mr. Zeroual would hand over power in the event of a fundamentalist presidential victory. But his will to move up elections appeared to be a gesture of conciliation toward more pragmatic fundamentalists as well as legal opposition parties.

Mr. Zeroual, who is also defence minister, still stressed his "determination" to pursue "the eradication of terrorism and violence... our security forces headed by the national popular army are working towards that with self-sacrifice."

Mr. Zeroual made his announcement during his first broadcast speech to the nation.

It was the first time the Mr. Zeroual's government had mentioned a presidential election, though it has yet to announce any plans for parliamentary voting.

French analysts questioned the elections would take place and said the announcement would not stop growing violence.

The French foreign minister said immediate comment on President Zeroual's

pledge of elections. France, Algeria's former colonial ruler and biggest economic partner, had urged the army-dominated authorities to open a political dialogue.

Mr. Zeroual said that dialogue had failed after two top FIS leaders, Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj, transferred from jail to house arrest in September failed to call a truce.

Exiled FIS spokesman called for intensified armed struggle, saying the election would never take place unless the FIS was legalised and multi-party democracy restored.

French Algeria-watcher Benjamin Stora said Mr. Zeroual's address on the 40th anniversary of the start of the war of independence contained two important new elements.

"For the first time since January 1992, he mentioned the taboo word 'elections,' although the mere mention of a possible presidential poll solves nothing in itself," Mr. Stora said.

"Secondly, his speech was a very harsh attack on the entire political class, not just on the FIS, showing that the army is fed up with being all alone in the front line."

"The question is not what kind of elections might take place in Algeria today. The real question is how to stop the violence. This won't stop the violence," Stora added.

Ghassan Salameh, an expert on the Arab World at France's National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS), said bloodshed was now so widespread that it was hard to imagine a national ballot.

Algeria's Islamists and army head for all-out war

By John Baggaley
Reuters

NICOSIA — In the narrow alleys of the old Casbah district of Algiers, word of a new call for a Muslim guerrilla offensive spreads rapidly from mouth to mouth.

In the Algiers regional military headquarters in nearby Blida, soldiers of the army that defeated the French receive their orders: "Fight to the end, whatever the sacrifice."

And up on the hill of the capital, once called "Algiers the White" for its elegant, whitewashed buildings overlooking the Mediterranean, the man who struggled to drag Algeria from three years of slaughter appears to have given up.

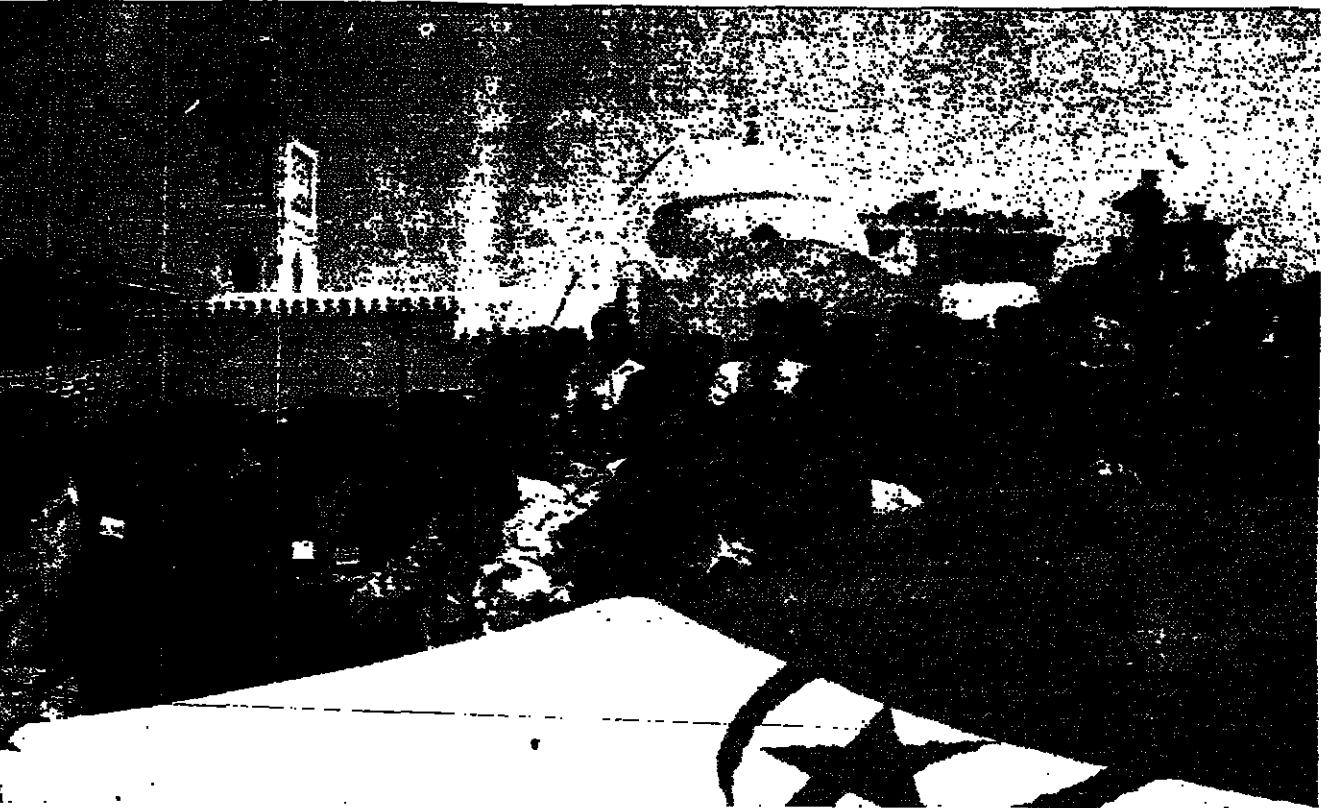
"It looks grim for the future," one Western diplomat said at the weekend after hearing that President Liamine Zeroual had admitted his effort to find common ground with the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had failed.

"If it has failed, it's possible Zeroual might go," he said.

The president was caught in the middle. Many diplomats believe he was too hampered by the hardline military men to make any realistic offers for peace with the Islamists, whom officials blame for a conflict in which 10,000 to 20,000 people have been slain since January 1992.

On Saturday night, the presidency in a statement after months of talks with political parties, many effectively acting as surrogates for the FIS, and the transfer of the two top FIS leaders from jail to house arrest, said:

"In spite of all the efforts that (Zeroual) has made, the positions between the different parties and between the parties and the state, including the position of the banned party (the



Algerian scouts waving their national flag stage a march to call for national reconciliation (AFP photo)

FIS), remain far apart."

More significantly, the president bluntly accused the two top men in the FIS, Abbasi Madani and his fiery deputy Ali Belhadj, of encouraging "terrorism and extremism."

He made the assessment after three meetings between his officials and the two men since Sept. 15 — two days after they were moved from Blida jail and

three colleagues were freed.

"Abbasi refused without hesitation (to condemn violence) adding that such a statement would be useless and would complicate the situation."

The statement said their intentions were clearly revealed in two letters "addressed by Ali Belhadj to terrorists from his current residence. These two letters... prove the man-

oeuvring attitude of the leaders of the banned party which continues to encourage terrorism and extremism."

Algeria, with 26 million people a mere hour's flight away from southern Europe, had come under growing pressure from the United States and France, among other Western countries, to negotiate with the FIS.

France, in particular,

along with Spain, Germany and Italy, fear an influx of fleeing Algerians if the bloody conflict, that has sent thousands of foreigners fleeing, worsens.

Apparently as a quid pro quo for sympathetic treatment over foreign debt, which crippled Algeria despite oil and gas wealth, the army-backed authorities did negotiate.

But most diplomats believe it was too little, too late to salvage the wreckage caused by the January 1992 cancellation of a general election the then-LG FIS looked certain to win.

"We've always been sceptical of dialogue succeeding because Zeroual could not go beyond what the people behind him, the army hardliners, would allow," said one European diplomat.

"It was the same for Madani. He did make some conciliatory noises recently but then in a less conciliatory statement later which he signed with four other Islamist leaders he seems to have been pulled back into line."

French intelligence sources say hundreds of people are now being killed each week and many diplomats believe it can only get worse.

They say the conflict is already as bad or worse than that which in 1962 ended 130 years of French rule, and for the Arab World won Algeria the acclaim of being the "country of a million martyrs."

Criminal trafficking in migrants on increase

By Wendy Labetkin

GENEVA — Growing numbers of would-be immigrants, unable to find legal immigration channels, are turning to professional gangs of traffickers to smuggle them across borders, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Globally, hundreds of thousands of migrants are estimated to be trafficked each year, "funneling of millions — perhaps billions — of dollars into the pockets of traffickers," says IOM Director General James Purcell, Jr.

"In the process, migrants are victimised, orderly migration processes are undermined, and national and international laws and policies are snubbed," Mr. Purcell told participants at an October 26-28 IOM-sponsored conference on the trafficking issue.

Migrants are trafficked in hundreds of ways, according to the IOM. They may pay to travel thousands of miles crammed into ships, be escorted on foot over land borders, or sealed into secret compartments in buses and trucks.

Trafficking is an illegal industry that is not only growing but diversifying. Some traffickers provide transportation while others specialise in "services" such as fraudulent documents, accommodations, or job brokering. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) believes the financial profit from the smuggling of human beings is almost equal to that of the international narcotics trade.

"The United States does not view alien trafficking as a migrant labour issue or a disguised person issue," says John Wright, director of fraud and anti-smuggling investigations at INS.

"Our investigation into the trafficking of aliens into the United States has revealed that it is an extremely large-scale criminal organisation with sophisticated schemes for moving people from one country to another," he said in an interview.

The potential profits were obviously clear to the Chinese smugglers who dubbed their vessel "Golden Venture."

But the "Venture" ran aground near Queens, New York in June 1993, one of the first major incidents to highlight the issue of large-scale illegal traffic in human cargo into the United States. A gang of smugglers — or "snake-heads" as they are

commonly known in China — had crammed the ship's hull with 300 passengers.

Subsequent investigations revealed that the smugglers charged an average of \$30,000 a head for the passage, fees that could potentially have generated revenues in excess of \$9 million, Mr. Wright pointed out.

Since 1991, the United States has documented 14 cases of smuggling Chinese migrant workers by boat resulting in the entry of more than 2,300 illegal aliens into the United States.

Mr. Wright said the United States and China are cooperating in their efforts to break the smuggling racket and prosecute traffickers.

The United States has successfully prosecuted 85 individuals in connection with the Chinese smuggling schemes, including ship captains, crews and others involved in organising the scheme, he noted.

President Bill Clinton's recent crime bill doubled the sentence for smuggling aliens into the United States, making it punishable by a term of 10 years in prison, he added.

China is probably the largest source country for trafficked migrants in the world, according to an IOM source paper for the meeting.

Hundreds of thousands of trafficked Chinese migrants may be in transit at any one time, smuggled by highly organised gangs which have access to sophisticated technology, ample financial resources and an international network.

Competition among Chinese traffickers has had the effect that they will sometimes offer passage with no down payment, according to the IOM paper.

Arriving in the country of destination, some migrants are held hostage until they or their relatives pay off their debt, and others are forced into indentured servitude, criminal activity, drug dealing or prostitution in order to pay the traffickers.

IOM is urging countries to consider trafficking not just as a question of laws and boundaries but also of human rights.

People are sometimes lured to migrate illegally by traffickers who offer unrealistic accounts of life in another country or who entice them with false contracts, according to the IOM paper.

Having arrived illegally in another country, they usually have no control over the working or living conditions offered to them.

To grow or not to grow, that is the question

By Daya Kishan Thussu

LONDON — Delegates attending the Ninth World Conference on Tobacco and Health in Paris in October had to tread a delicate line.

The conference, sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in conjunction with a group of non-governmental organisations, was to assess the costs of the world's health of the global tobacco industry.

Tobacco is the developing world's eighth largest export earner, though only in Zimbabwe and Malawi does it account for more than 2.2 per cent of foreign earnings.

Although responsible for 3 million deaths a year through smoking-related diseases, tobacco also provides an economic lifeline for some 18 million workers worldwide, including 11 million growers.

But the figures on tobacco do not add up. As even the World Bank has now realised, the trade has long-lasting social costs that outweigh the economic benefits.

Tobacco costs more in death and disease than it earns. A study in Egypt found that tobacco yields some \$365 million a year in taxes, export earnings and wages but costs the government around twice as much on the cost of treating smoking-related diseases and in imports of tobacco products.

China Daily reported an estimate by the health authorities in Beijing that China generated \$4 billion in tobacco sales in 1989 but that treatment for smoking-caused illness cost more than \$5 billion.

As smoking declines in the North, profits from the industry increasingly come from developing countries. In the last four decades, cigarette consumption in the South has grown by more than 30 per cent. And the South's consumption of tobacco is likely to soar now that satellite and cable television give advertisers entry into homes all round the globe.

Studies show that developing countries will soon top the fatality league. The South currently accounts for one in three smoking-related deaths, but the proportion is expected to increase to two-thirds of the predicted 10 million deaths in the next 30 years. This at a time when spending on health is being slashed under World Bank and International Monetary Fund Structural Adjustment Programmes, now being followed by more than 70 developing countries.

Children and young people are the most vulnerable targets of the advertising boom. Population growth forecasts can only benefit the tobacco companies. Every child to survive is a potential customer.

The women's market is also full of potential. According to Judith Mackay, author of *The Fight Against Tobacco*

Tobacco traders



Source: Panos

Top producers:

China	3.16m tonnes
US	0.76m
Brazil	0.58m
India	0.58m
Turkey	0.32m

Top exporters:

Brazil	\$804m
Zimbabwe	\$450m
Turkey	\$309m
Malawi	\$293m
India	\$163m

Except for Malawi and Zimbabwe, tobacco accounts for less than 2.2% of foreign earnings

Prices have fallen 50% in real terms in last decade

co in Developing Countries, the greatest gains for the tobacco companies are to be made in Africa, where the rate of smoking among women is the lowest of any continent.

Smoking by women is usually related to greater social freedom. The tobacco companies foster this link in their advertising by portraying women smokers as sleek, beautiful, professional, rich and independent-minded.

International trade in tobacco is dominated by Northern-based transnational corporations (TNCs). TNCs as a whole will be the main beneficiaries of the liberalisation in world trade which the recently concluded "Uruguay Round" of trade talks is expected to usher in.

Of the 104 countries that produce tobacco, 77 are in the developing world and yet 70 per cent of world production is controlled by six Northern TNCs: Rothmans, Philip Morris, R.J.R. Nabisco (formerly R.J. Reynolds), BAT, American Brands and Japan Tobacco.

Critics point out that tobacco production takes up land which could be used to grow food.

While farmers are growing more tobacco, world prices have dropped. In 1992, developing countries exported 15 per cent more tobacco than in 1991, but earned \$157

million less. This benefits the TNCs who control the trade from raw tobacco to finished cigarettes.

Farmers who produce the tobacco are left at the bottom of the heap and see little of the earnings. A study in Uganda showed that farmers received only 30 per cent of the produce value while BAT and the government took 70 per cent.

As with other cash crops, tobacco demands intensive work, often by women and children. Children miss school and their education suffers. Women have to collect wood for the drying barns as well as helping with cultivation, leaving them less time for food cultivation and domestic chores.

The Bangladesh Tobacco Corporation, a BAT subsidiary, gave loans to farmers to change over from subsistence food production to tobacco. Though academics maintain that traditional crops like chili or potato could be even more profitable, tobacco has the advantage of an international marketing system to tap into.

The other key issue is environmental degradation. Tobacco depletes soil nutrients faster than many other crops and requires regular applications of chemical fertiliser. Wood-burning kilns are often used to dry or "cure" tobacco leaves, which contributes to deforestation. The

industry is committed in theory to replanting trees but this has not been very effective in practice.

Some countries have tried to diversify and reduce the amount of land under tobacco. Zimbabwe, for instance, is encouraging cultivation of flowers and citrus fruits as alternative crops. But only the minority of wealthy, white tobacco planters have the capital to invest in this, not the 90,000 small-scale African farmers.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation have promised to help switch crops but little has been done till now.

Despite the growing success of anti-smoking curbs in the West — where smoking has fallen by half in the last 40 years — few effective measures have been taken to control the tobacco industry in developing countries. Legislation and taxation have made little impact.

Just 10 days after the Paris conference the tobacco industry is staging a conference in Vienna on the search for new markets. The industry should be feeling reassured that under the Uruguay Round trade accord, governments will be restricted in any sanctions they may want to apply against cigarette imports.

Panos

Saudis eye privatisation to meet budget problems

DUBAI (R) — Privatisation is suddenly a buzz word in financial and political circles in Saudi Arabia as the kingdom looks high and low for ways out of its budget problems.

Financial experts say it could take years to privatise any of the wholly-owned companies, like the national airline Saudia, and even then it would probably require major reform.

But Saudi Arabia has scope to make money quickly and easily by selling off some of its shares in a panoply of already publicly traded companies.

"Selling off shares represents a major (potential) source of revenue for the government," one economist said.

Though Saudi Arabia is the world's biggest oil producer, its financial reserves have been squeezed by low oil prices and high spending, causing foreign officials like U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen to make rare public comments on Saudi financing difficulties.

In September King Fahd took up an offer by British Prime Minister John Major to provide advice on privatisation.

One idea King Fahd mentioned specifically in June was to privatise Saudia and the telephone system.

Saudia, mentioned again in October as a privatisation possibility by his brother and second deputy prime minister Prince Sultan, Saudia's chairman, could be one of the most difficult to do in a short

time, financial analysts say. They say the company is bloated with staff, does not pay anything to Saudi Aramco for its jet fuel, makes losses on its heavily subsidised domestic routes and often does not get paid by government officials for its tickets.

"Any privatisation of Saudia would have to take account of those structural problems that they have," a diplomat commented. "It's being run on essentially un-economic grounds."

The government could guarantee dividends as it does to the partly privately held electricity companies through subsidies.

But this might not be seen as very attractive, especially in the light of the debt Saudia is expected to take on soon to buy \$6 billion-\$7 billion of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas planes.

Diplomats say that if it is reformed and run economically, it would be a worthwhile investment.

Another idea mentioned by financial experts would be to sell off parts of Saudia, such as its foreign routes or catering operations, but officials have not alluded to this possibility.

Selling off the government's telephone operations would face a brighter prospect — phone companies around the world rake in the money, especially on international services — and a government study last year recommended just that.

But the phone system is undergoing a seven to eight-

World Bank ready to double loans

Businessmen face bureaucratic maze in M.E.

CASABLANCA (Agencies) — More than 1,000 businessmen flushed with optimism after an economic conference in Casablanca will have to find the keys to a bureaucratic maze to turn hopes into successful enterprises in the Middle East and North Africa.

To fulfil one of the conference's aims of sharply boosting foreign investment in the region, they will have to deal with what a Western diplomat described as "the serpentine and elephantine bureaucracies" running the administrations in most of the 18 states in the region.

A year ago the conference host, King Hassan of Morocco, ordered drastic reforms in the country's administration where he said bureaucratic red tape was scaring off even the most determined foreign investors.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in Casablanca there was a market of 300 million people in the region, which could become a powerful economic bloc like the European Union or the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA).

What he did not say was that several million of them are civil servants, most of them poorly paid, who in the past have tended to have a stranglehold on economic affairs, which are generally state-controlled.

Most of the time suppliers, buyers and investors have had to run an obstacle course to obtain official licences or authorisations, and fill in countless forms. As one publisher at the conference said, "printing official forms is a major industry in these parts."

For Westerners language and labyrinthine legislation can also be problems. Laws are often a heritage of the colonisers who had a mania for regulating almost everything. In Morocco the French even issued a decree to regulate the profession of snake charmer.

One top executive who asked not to be named said banking legislation in an Arab country he was keen to do business with "reads like a bad translation of Finnegans Wake," the arcane novel by James Joyce.

Derek Spencer, director of John Laing International Ltd. which has construction contracts in several states in the area, told Reuters the best way for foreign firms to clear all the hurdles was to have a local agent.

"You've got to have someone, a local national with connections, who knows the ropes and can hold your hand," he said.

But several business leaders at the Casablanca conference said things were changing with the emergence of a new generation of private entrepreneurs, often educated in Western business schools, who speak English and other European languages fluently.

They said a burgeoning bourgeoisie of movers and shakers, impatient with state controls, was bringing pressure to bear on governments to make them relax their authoritarian grip.

Peter Sutherland, who master-minded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) agreement signed in Morocco last April, said in an interview the way ahead for the Middle East

and North Africa was open market trading and an end to the interventionist state.

"Excessive bureaucracy is the enemy of trade," he added.

World Bank Vice-President Caio Koch-Weser who also addressed the conference said in an interview, "the whole thrust of this conference must be to unleash the energies of the private sector."

He told the delegates that "with effective country policies for realising the new paradigm of private-sector-led growth... we could more than double our lending in the region to about \$35 billion a year."

Mr. Koch-Weser told AFP the bank was prepared to increase lending from \$1.5 billion to \$3 billion providing countries in the region adopted "much better social and economic policies."

The "real peace dividend" would not come through increased aid to the region, but through economic ties and new financial structures. Mr. Koch-Weser said.

"The World Bank can more than double its lending

once new policies are in place. Water, environment, infrastructure — we stand ready to lend to projects," he added.

Governments should introduce "far-reaching reforms" to promote private sector growth.

"In the past this has been a region of conflict where governments have played a dominant role. To turn away from that and give the private sector a chance is what needs to be done," he said.

The World Bank would also increase its support by lending directly to regional projects and expand its technical assistance.

Mr. Koch-Weser said the Casablanca conference was a "milestone" on the way to economic cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa.

But he also cautioned that such a large gathering "can only be a first, modest step to results on the ground."

It would take time for most businessmen to "come down off the fence and make a deal."

Arab development funds fail to spur sustainable growth

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Arab League's two main development funds have extended more than \$5 billion in loans and grants to the 22 member states but they have failed to spur sustainable growth and economic problems have persisted.

Arab states have also received more than \$370 billion

in the past 25 years in other loans, credits and grants.

Yet their economic have slowed down, their budgets and trade balance still suffer from deficits, and unemployment and inflation have risen in some countries.

The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) are the two main development bodies in the Arab World.

The AMF was set up in Abu Dhabi in 1976 with an authorised capital of around \$2.43 billion, of which nearly \$1.3 billion are subscribed.

The fund was created with the primary goal of tackling chronic balance of payments

deficits in most member states by providing soft loans and technical assistance.

But deficits have persisted mainly because of inadequate use of the loans, prompting the AMF to concentrate on technical aid and encouraging its members to carry out economic reforms.

By the end of 1993, the

End of Australian boom times tipped by new study

SYDNEY (AFP) — Days after Australia's central bank raised interest rates to steady a surging economy, a leading economic forecaster has tipped an end to the good times, with an economic downturn expected in two years time.

Its seeds have already been sown because Canberra has failed to induce sufficient business investment during the current recovery cycle-BIS-Shrapnell said in its latest long-term forecast.

After two more prosperous years, with interest rates and inflation rising, a blowout in the current account deficit would occur, with growth contracting from almost five per cent to less than one per cent.

Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index would rise from 1.9 per cent — one of the lowest in the industrialised world — to 5.8 per cent in 1996.

The study of economic conditions to 2009 also predicted Canberra would hand down a "horror" budget next May and housing interest rates would rise from their

9.55 low to a peak of 12.5 per cent by June 1996.

"The current economic environment does not represent the start of a new golden age, with strong growth, low inflation and a contained current account deficit," the report said. "It simply represents another cycle."

"The seeds of the next downturn have already been sown by the failure of federal government to induce sufficient investment in the recovery stage of the business cycle," it pointed out.

While there was plenty of capacity now, there is insufficient capital stock to support further growth and supply bottlenecks would start to emerge in 12-to-18 months.

"Overall there has been no increase in the net capital stock over the last three years," it said.

Two years of sound growth with strong increases in expenditure would feed through to growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of 4.6 per cent in the financial year to next June, falling to 3.2 per cent in 1995-96.

Increases in interest rates would lead to a downturn in 1996-97, with growth contracting to only 0.9 per cent and the danger of a more severe downturn if interest rates were kept too high for too long, it said.

Official interest rates were raised a week ago by one percentage point to 6.5 per cent as a preemptive strike against inflation, the second rise since August.

Economists, meanwhile, have warned that Australia's fast-growing economy is set to plunge further into the red.

The deficit on the current account, including payments on debt and investments, fell 14 per cent in September to a seasonally adjusted \$1.89 billion Australian dollars (\$1.3 billion), the Australian Bureau of Statistics said Tuesday.

But analysts said the figure was in the upper range of market forecasts and likely to deteriorate as imports climbed during economic growth, interest payments on overseas debt rose and a severe drought cut farm exports.

They said the Australian government was under mounting pressure to speed up its plan to cut the budget deficit, thus boosting national savings and easing the need for foreign loans.

The government has forecast a budget deficit of 11.7 billion dollars in the financial year to June 1995, falling to 4.8 billion dollars in 1996-97.

But Prime Minister Paul Keating has said he is unwilling to check on spending, recently referring to opposition MPs calling for a smaller budget deficit as "deficit daileys."

Daleys were robots in a British television science-fiction series, Dr. Who, best-known for their dogged persistence in attaining their goals and repeated calls to "exterminate" enemies.

"There is not much news in today's figures but they do underline that the current account is increasingly becoming the central focus of economic policy," said John Larum, senior economist at SBC Australia.

"The prime minister has been drawing lines in the sand against the 'deficit daileys' but we think that will change because of the market's reaction on the current account."

Mr. Larum said interest rate hikes in the United States would increase the cost of overseas loans, business investment would boost imports and the drought would cut rural exports.

"All these work in the wrong direction and we cannot afford to continue running a current account deficit that is running at 4.5 per cent, approaching 5.0 per cent, of gross domestic product," he said.

The September figure compared to a seasonally adjusted deficit of 2.113 billion dollars in August and 1.178 billion dollars in September 1993.

The fall in the deficit was partly caused by a 421-million-dollar, or 48 per cent, drop in the merchandise trade deficit as exports fell one per cent.

Oil supply crunch seen for Asia due to rising energy demands

MANILA (AFP) — Asia's insatiable energy demands could put pressure on oil supply in the region, senior South East Asian petroleum executives said here, although Brunei predicted that prices were likely to remain soft.

"Unless the growth in China and Vietnam is stagnated, which is unlikely, the Singapore refineries will... be able to operate at high capacities," Tan Boon Teik, chairman of the Singapore National Oil Co. told a regional meeting here.

Azizan Zainal Abidin, president of the Malaysian oil firm Petroleum Nasional Bhd. (Petronas), said the robust pace of economic growth in the region should cause energy demands to escalate.

"China and India will probably emerge as major consumers of energy, making the Asian region the most rapidly expanding market for petroleum products," Mr. Azizan said.

"While this development would result in pressure on supply in the Asia-Pacific, it would also evoke greater attention to this region from oil-producing countries located outside the region," he added.

The president of Indonesian state oil firm Pertamina, Faisal Abda'oe, said Jakarta, which is a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), saw a rise in domestic oil demand.

He said this would "reduce the volume of exportable surplus" under its 1.5 million barrels a day (b/d) quota.

Jakarta is implementing diversification to reduce the country's oil dependency in order to maintain constant

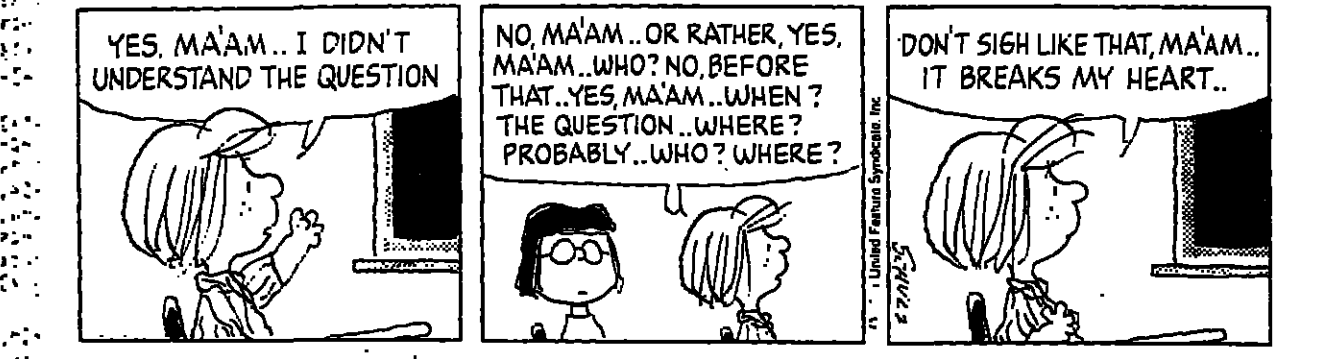
volume of exportable surplus, he added.

Mr. Tan said China's fast-paced growth "has created a voracious appetite for oil imports," leading to a 56 per cent increase to 7.12 million tonnes in the first six months to June.

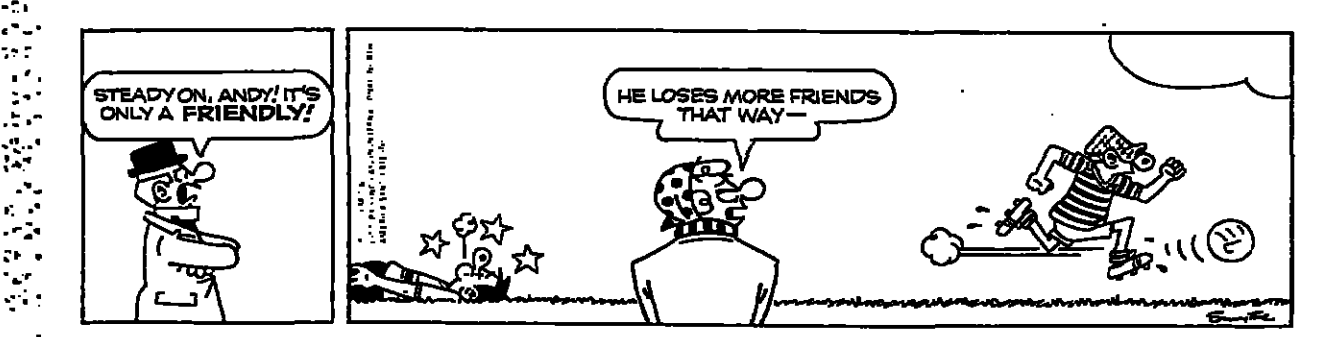
He said Beijing was trying to curtail imports by periodic bans and quota restrictions, coupled with attempts to boost domestic sales and control smuggling.

Increases in refinery capacities in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand should cater to growth in domestic demand, but a planned 49 per cent hike in South Korea's refining capacity to 2.5 million b/d by 1996 is "a worrying factor," Mr. Tan said.

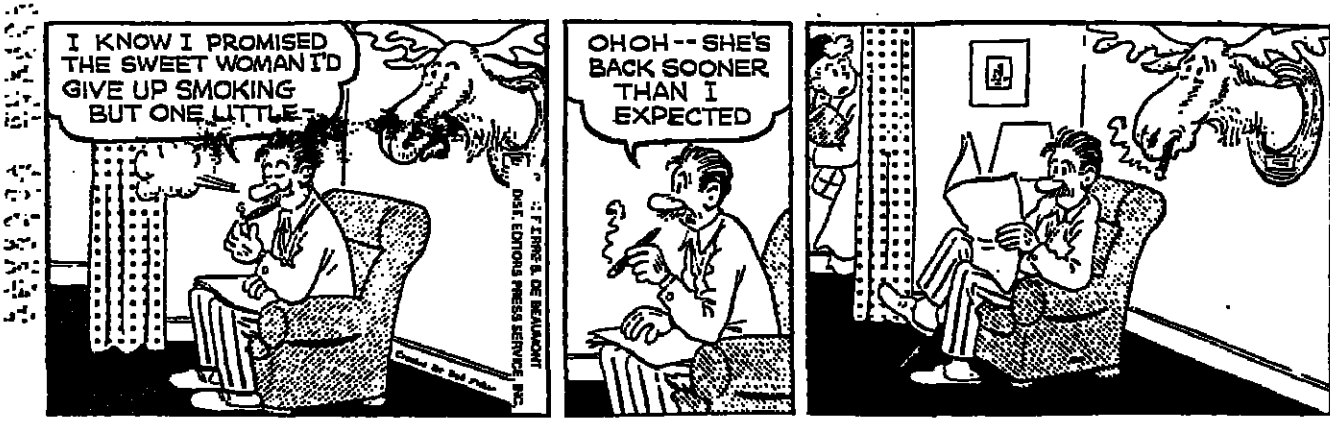
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(Answers Monday)

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THE Daily Crossword

by Avery P. Bromfield

ACROSS

1 Classic Western
6 Health farms
10 Commercial container
14 Vampires
15 Mountain State (with 10D)
16 Involved
17 Ranks
19 ...ave
20 Seed coats
21 Young national bird
22 Triding
23 One-horse carriage
27 Kick, in a way
28 Baling machine
29 TV alien
30 Open, as a bottle
32 Electron tube
36 River Sp.
37 Ins and outs
38 Violent Leopold
40 Phone of curvies
42 "Call Me"
43 Theater sign
44 Glove
47 Goggles
48 Illuminated, in a
51 Preferred board
52 Whim
53 Recycled
54 Mine entrance
55 Social
59 Enthusiastic review
61 "Don't Bring (old song)
62 Amphidustor
63 Viewed
64 Usher or major ending
68 Wading bird

DOWN

1 Comp. pt.
2 FDR's predecessor
3 "Exodus" hero
4 Swimming
6 Acres
8 Morally ground
7 Crosets
8 Goggles; suit
9 Haslam
10 See 15A
11 Starbuck
12 French philosopher
13 Growing out
18 "Our Town" author
22 Lasting interest
23 Aside
24 Chief Child
26 Newey
28 Confronted
29 Coat with a greyish tinge
31 Sky flyer
33 Go
34 Water gradually
36 Lively
38 Desert
41 Tomorrow site
43 Carmichael's cataplasm
46 Fiddle
48 Eaten
49 ... drum
50 Morning TV show
51 Inlet
53 Waterman
54 Furrow
57 ... the
58 Numero
59 ... Joe

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Currency	New York CLOSING	Tokyo CLOSING
100/100	1.6355	1.6390
100/100	1.5034	1.4998
100/100	1.5565	1.5522
100/100	5.1465	5.1395**
100/100	96.90	96.62
100/100	1.2660	1.2679**

* 100 Per 100
** London Opening = 4.00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates Date: 1/11/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.75	5.37	5.68	6.00
Sterling Pound	5.37	5.67	6.31	6.93
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.93	5.06	5.50
Swiss Franc	5.56	5.81	6.00	6.43
French Franc	5.31	5.46	5.68	6.12
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.31	2.37	2.62
European Currency Unit	5.53	5.67	6.05	6.63

Interest bid rates for accounts exceeding 100,000 J.O.D. or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 1/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6890	0.6910
Sterling Pound	1.1278	1.1334
Deutsche Mark	0.4587	0.4610
Swiss Franc	0.5494	0.5521
French Franc	0.1341	0.1348
Japanese Yen	0.7107	0.7145
Dutch Guilder	0.4093	0.4113
Swedish Krona	0.0449	0.0451
Italian Lira	0.0449	0.0451
Belgian Franc	0.0449	0.0451

Other Currencies Date: 1/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8120	1.8240
Lebanese Lira	0.040770	0.042270
Saudi Riyal	0.1643	0.1656
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3500	0.3750
Qatari Riyal	0.1860	0.1890
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7700	1.7900
UAE Dirham	0.1850	0.1860
Greek Drachma	0.0715	0.0745
Cypriot Pound	1.4370	1.5325

UAE banks thrive on trade, government loans

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) banks expect another record performance in 1994 as trade picks up and the government borrows more to offset a gap caused by weak oil prices, an official report showed.

The Gulf country's 47 banks made record earnings in 1993 due to a surge in credits to the government and to trade and construction, the main investment sectors along with stocks in the oil-rich region.

Profits by the 19 national banks stood at around 1.48 billion dirhams (\$403 million) in 1993 while those by the 28 foreign units peaked at around 430 million dirhams (\$117 million).

"There is no accurate in-

formation so far on the performance of banks and companies for this year," said Ziad Dabbas, share dealing director at the government-controlled National Bank of Abu Dhabi.

"But optimism is dominating the market about such performance due to an economic upswing, especially in trade, construction and services," he added.

Credits have remained the main activities by banks in the UAE and other Gulf oil producing countries as there are no other major investment opportunities.

Another key source of income is their investment abroad.

Credits and loans by the UAE banks surged to 80.6 billion dirhams (\$21.9 billion) by the end of June from 67 billion dirhams (\$18.2 billion) by the end of 1992, according

to the central bank.

Credits to trade increased to 26.9 billion dirhams (\$7.32 billion) from 22.8 billion dirhams (\$6.21 billion) during the same period.

Credits to the construction sector also rose to 14.1 billion dirhams (\$3.84 billion) from 13.1 billion dirhams (\$3.56 billion).

Loans to the government surged to 13.2 billion dirhams (\$3.59 billion) from 10.8 billion dirhams (\$2.94 billion).

Financial sources attributed the increase in those loans to a government trend to borrow more to bridge a deficit in the budget and finance pressing development projects as the drop in oil prices created a cash shortage as is the case in Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude producer and exporter.

Oil provides more than 90 per cent of the UAE's in-

Russian MMM chief tells supporters shares are invalid

MOSCOW (R) — The flamboyant head of Russia's MMM investment firm stunned his supporters Tuesday by telling them their shares were temporarily invalid in a move that seemed certain to shatter his reputation as a people's hero.

About 3,000 shareholders, many of whom had taken to the streets to support president Sergei Yavlinsky during criminal proceedings, had massed at MMM's main Moscow offices following his triumph in parliamentary elections on Monday.

But the mood of expectation and elation swung abruptly to fury and bitterness as the crowd heard a statement from Mr. Yavlinsky in which he said the validity of old shares would be suspended from Nov. 1 to Jan. 1.

People exploded with anger, hissing and whistling in derision and throwing MMM share tickets into the air like confetti after the announcement which left them with no hope of trading in their securities.

Some tossed bottles at the entrance of the heavily-guarded building in southern Moscow.

"From today, Yavlinsky has lost confidence. He should have accepted old shares back at the nominal value but not abolish them," said metalworker Ivan Ivanov.

Mr. Yavlinsky, 39, despite being under investigation on tax evasion charges, had become a cult figure among MMM shareholders by successfully portraying himself as the little man pitted against a bureaucratic state.

Thousands of people from all walks of life had staged street demonstrations and marches in his defence while he was in jail.

But his announcement on Tuesday seemed to have exploded his reputation as a martyr to the cause of free enterprise in the new Russia.

"Many people have mortgaged their cars and their flats to buy these shares and now these thieves have stolen all our money," said 70-year-old Olga Vladimirova.

Ms. Vladimirova and two other elderly women said they had taken part in a march to the prison where Mr. Yavlinsky was being held to display their solidarity.

Mr. Yavlinsky himself, who could not be reached Tuesday, may have won immunity from prosecution by his triumph in a parliamentary by-election on Monday.

MMM promised dividends of 3,000 per cent a year, and millions of individuals made fortunes before the bubble burst and payments stopped.

Critics said MMM was a classic pyramid scheme, using income from new investors to buy back shares from old investors at ever-rising prices. The game ended when investors stopped buying new shares and cash supplies dried up to buy old shares back.

In the statement read out by a company employee, Mr. Yavlinsky said the validity of old shares had been temporarily suspended "because of their concentration in the hands of speculators and middlemen."

S. Korea's major industrial players see 30 per cent annual sales growth

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's major players in the electronics, auto and shipbuilding industries expect robust sales growth rates averaging around 30 per cent in 1994, with Samsung Electronics Co. topping out with a record performance for a single firm, business sources have said.

Samsung Electronics said it would be the first domestic manufacturer to break the 10 trillion won (\$12.5 billion) sales mark by year's end.

"We will be the first to reach around 11 trillion won in annual sales in 1994, thanks both to booming exports and domestic sales," Kim Jung-Hyun, a company spokesman said.

Mr. Kim said that, spurred by the high yen, Samsung Electronics had achieved sound results so far in the year, which should see sales of semiconductor and home appliances grow more than 30 per cent each from a year ago.

Especially brisk were exports of semiconductors, its main exchange foreign earner, which posted an all-time high in the year and helped boost the export component of Samsung's total sales to 65 per cent from 55 per cent in 1993.

"Samsung will continue to dominate the world's semiconductor business with already started mass-production of 16-megabit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips," Mr. Kim told AFP in a telephone interview.

He added that Samsung was ready to vie with other rivals in terms of sales and production of 16 megabit DRAM chips, after dominating the four-megabit DRAM chip market, where South Korean makers including Samsung have earned huge profits.

Goldstar Co., a leading maker in Korea's home appliance market, projected its sales at \$6.63 billion for 1994, up 23 per cent from last year, while Hyundai Electronics Co. put its sales estimated at \$2.63 billion, a whopping 70 per cent growth.

In the automaking field, Hyundai Motor Co. is expected to reach \$10.63 billion in sales, a little worse-than-projected 20 per cent increase, while Kia Motors would see a robust 31 per cent rise to post \$6.75 billion.

Hyundai Heavy Industries, the nation's largest shipyard, predicted a 40 per cent surge to post \$4.88 billion in 1994 results over a year earlier.

But 1994 was not such a good year for the South Korean shipbuilding industry as a whole. It was knocked out of its hard-earned top slot by Japan.

In 1993 local shipbuilders won eight million tonnes worth of orders, taking the lion's share in the world market, followed by Japan, which received orders for 6.5 million tonnes or 31.7 per cent of the world total in the year, according to reports from the nation's Industrial Bank.

This year saw Japan leapfrog back into the top spot on lower bidding, but experts here predicted the Japanese attack would fizzle out and saw South Korean shipbuilders coming back from the latter half of next year.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3518/28	Canadian dollar
	1.4990/00	Deutsche marks
	1.6804/14	Dutch guilders
	1.2500/10	Swiss francs
	30.87/91	Belgian francs
	5.1321/71	French francs
	1538.09/5	Italian lire
	96.67/77	Japanese yen
	7.1425/25	Swedish crowns
	6.5270/20	Norwegian crowns
	5.8600/50	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.6360/70	
One ounce of gold	\$383.50/\$383.90	

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Mixed fortunes for Davis Cup hopefuls

PARIS (AFP) — There were mixed fortunes for players hoping to win a place in next month's Davis Cup final when the \$2.25 million Paris Indoor Open got underway in the grass-walled Bercy Stadium Tuesday.

Russians Alexander Volkov and Andrei Chesnokov were both beaten in their first-round matches while Magnus Larsson showed that he has put his disappointing summer behind him by scoring a straight-sets win.

Stubbom Australian Jason Stoltenberg saved two match points in a dramatic 18-point tie-break to upset Volkov and earn a second-round clash against eighth-seeded United States Open champion Andre Agassi.

The 24-year-old from New South Wales, who had never taken a set off Volkov in three previous encounters, clinched a 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) victory in two and a half hours after trailing 6-7 and 7-8 in the tie-break.

Chesnokov's recent mini-revival in form was slapped back by Zimbabwe's Byron Black. Black better known as a doubles player, raced home 6-1, 6-4 and now faces big-serving defending champion Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia for a place in the last sixteen.

By contrast, Swedish Davis Cup captain John Anders Sjogren will be reassured by Larsson's form. The 6ft 3in, 24-year-old French Open semi-finalist, showed that he is still programmed in winning mode by racing to a 7-5, 6-4 win over Reneberg in just 79 minutes.

Larsson, who won only two matches in seven consecutive tournaments before triumphing at the Toulouse ATP event earlier this month, now plays 15th-seeded Austrian Thomas Muster.

In other matches, Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch threw



Germany's Boris Becker (left) and U.S. Andre Agassi warm up during a practice session on the eve of their first round

match at the Paris-Bercy Open. Agassi will face Jason

away a 4-1 first set lead but still managed to beat argumentative Jaime Yzaga of Peru 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Yzaga, who took a warning in the first set after protesting a decision, was lucky to escape further punishment minutes later when he slammed a ball into the net in anger.

Boetsch now plays Switzerland's big-serving 14th seed Marc Rosset.

Another French winners were Cedric Pioline and 21-year-old wild-card entry Lionel Roux.

Pioline, desperately trying to halt his slide after crashing

out of the top-ten to 43rd in the current rankings, played a faultless match against Australian Patrick Rafter, and a 6-4, 6-2 win gave him a show-down with tenth seeded Paris-based South African Wayne Ferreira.

Roux outplayed Karsten Braasch 6-2, 7-5 and now faces another German player in the next round — third seed Michael Stich.

Petr Korda of the Czech Republic and Renzo Furlan of Italy won their matches — but in different styles.

Korda, a former French Open finalist, dropped only four games against dis-

appointing Aaron Krickstein of the United States while Furlan needed a 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 scoreline to put out American Chuck Adams.

Two home players were beaten.

Olivier Delaite crashed to Bernd Karbacher of Germany and Thierry Guadalupe was beaten by Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands.

The seeded players all have first-round byes.

Boris Becker, who has risen to third in the world rankings following his remarkable triumph at the Stockholm at the weekend, is a hot favourite to win the

event for a fourth time.

His victories in Sweden over the world's top-three players in as many days, qualified the three-times Wimbledon champion for the elite eight-man ATP World Championships finals in Frankfurt next month.

Becker opens his campaign in the 48-player tournament on Wednesday against either MaliVai Washington of the United States or Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, while world number-one and top-seed Pete Sampras, who is growing a beard on orders of his girlfriend, faces Eltingh in his first tournament match.

Spurs sack Ardiles

LONDON (AP) — Former Argentine World Cup star Osvaldo Ardiles was fired Tuesday's as manager of Tottenham.

Despite Saturday's 3-1 victory over West Ham, Tottenham owner Alan Sugar made the move because of a series of poor recent performances. They included elimination from the League Cup by Notts County, which places last in the division below yet beat mighty Spurs 3-0.

Ardiles was summoned to Sugar's home Monday night and told the news.

"The decision to let Ossie go has been one of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to make in my life," Sugar said Tuesday.

"Over the past few days I have struggled. A lot of soul searching and deep thought has been applied. The difficulty has been compounded by the fact that he is such a delightful person and a good man."

Ardiles spent some £8 million (\$12.8 million) to produce one of the most exciting strikeforces in the league by hiring world cup stars Juergen Klinsmann, Ilie Dumitrescu and Gheorghe Popescu.

But the team's defence, which badly needed strengthening, was repeatedly left exposed while Ardiles placed too much emphasis on attack.

After the loss to County, angry Spurs fans banged their fists on the team bus as it left the stadium, popular as a player at Spurs when he was hired after Argentina's 1978 World Cup triumph in 1978.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Record fleet enters Sydney-Hobart race

SYDNEY (R) — A record 430 boats have entered this year's 50th Sydney-to-Hobart ocean race, prompting race organisers to announce Tuesday that stringent safety measures will be introduced for the event which starts December 26. The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA), the race organiser, said that the potential starting fleet could exceed the largest ever to set sail in a long ocean race. Race officials said they believe the largest ever blue water classic fleet was some 350 boats in an Admiral's Cup fastest race. The largest previous Sydney-to-Hobart fleet of 179 vessels was in 1985.

Lineker may have played last game

TOKYO (R) — Gary Lineker's playing career may have been ended by a chest injury which could keep him out until his planned retirement at the end of the Japanese season. Doctors at Lineker's Nagoya Grampus Eight Club were reported as saying the former England striker needs there to four weeks to recover — and the season ends in less than three weeks. Lineker was elbowed in the chest in a game Saturday.

Sarajevo team meet the Pope

ROME (AFP) — Sarajevo's football team will be received by Pope John II Wednesday, according to papal authorities Monday. The Bosnian team will then play Italian league leaders Parma November 9.

Saunders and Hughes to boost Wales

CARDIFF (AFP) — Dean Saunders and Mark Hughes return to Wales' squad for their European Nations Cup qualifying match against Georgia. Both have been included in the 18-man squad for the November 16 fixture in Tbilisi, though suspended Aston Villa striker Saunders missed the 3-2 setback in Moldova, as did injured Manchester United forward Hughes. Hughes (groin) and Old Trafford team-mate Ryan Giggs (ankle) still have injury doubts, despite coach Mike Smith's faith in their recovery. Sheffield United's Nathan Blake, Portsmouth defender Kit Symons and Derby midfielder Mark Pembroke have all been dropped. But Newcastle's Alan Neilson has been brought into the squad, named on Monday.

United fans in trouble

BARCELONA (AFP) — Seventeen Manchester United fans were arrested Monday night following street fights, a police spokesman said. Four fans who allegedly started a fight by overturning some parked motorbikes were arrested after they leapt into a taxi to escape. Another 13 detained after fights in the Ramblas tourist site. Only 4,700 of 7,000 United fans, who had travelled for the English club's European Champions' League match with Barcelona Wednesday, had tickets, the police said. Police have mobilised 720 officers and 200 security guards for a match classed as high risk by the European Football Union.

Australian wins first leg of BOC

CHARLESTON (AP) — Australian David Adams made up a (723-kilometre) gap to finish first in the Class II category in the first leg of the BOC round-the-world yacht race. Adams crossed the line at Cape Town, South Africa, to win his category with a time of 42 days, nine hours, 50 minutes and 45 seconds. The mark broke the 1990-91 record of Yves Dupasquie by more than two days. Italian Giovanni Soldini was second in Class II — for yachts (12-to-15 metres) — finishing 15 hours behind Adams. Isabelle Autissier of France became the first woman to win a leg of the BOC challenge when she crossed the finish line at Cape Town to capture the Class I (15-to-18 metre, yachts) category and overall victory in the first leg of the singlehanded around-the-world race.

Referee sues after being hit following decision

VESOU, France (AFP) — A referee in a regional football league match has brought legal proceedings after being injured by players and fans following an unpopular decision. Police said Monday, Stepan Barkowski was injured on his calf and lips after being hit following his dismissal of two players from visitors Turcs de Luxeuil in the 40th minute. Turcs were playing Fougereolles. The same source added police had opened an inquiry. The regional league said it will also investigate and deal with the matter before the law courts.

Bell to celebrate 25th jubilee

YAOUNDE (AFP) — Former Cameroon international goalkeeper Joseph Antoine Bell will celebrate 25 years in football with a "large party" of football. Bell, who nearly brought about a strike at this summer's World Cup because of large sums of money owed to players, hopes to organise friendly matches. And he told AFP he wanted to examine "technical possibilities for national television to cover matches of this jubilee for the European public." Bell said Paris Saint Germain keeper Bernard Lama and AC Milan's Cameroon-born Dutch international Ruud Гуилт would be at the party. "I am organising this party in Cameroon to allow the Cameroon public to see talented players they have only seen on television."

Venables remains England coach

LONDON (R) — Terry Venables retains the full support of England's soccer establishment and will remain national coach, the Football Association (F.A.) said Tuesday.

Venables Monday denied allegations in a BBC television programme that he had unlawfully obtained £436,000 (\$707,000) following the 1991 takeover of Tottenham Hotspur.

Graham Kelly, F.A. chief executive, said the allegations about Venables were unproven and did not affect his ability to coach the national team.

"The programme presented no evidence to cast doubt on his qualifications to be the England football coach, or on his capacity to do the job," Kelly told a news conference.

The F.A. appointed Venables to replace the sacked Graham Taylor in January, after the BBC's Panorama had first queried financial aspects of Venables's takeover of Tottenham.

Nothing had happened to change the F.A.'s opinion that Venables, once manager of Spain's Barcelona, was the person best suited to coach the national team, Kelly said.

"Crucially, it is our belief he retains the overwhelming backing of his fellow professionals to fulfil the task he's undertaken," Kelly said.

"He will continue to do so with the F.A.'s full backing," Venables issued a writ against Panorama for its first programme. But he has not taken legal action for Monday's allegations which he claimed amounted to victimisation.

"My position remains as before — that I have done nothing dishonest, I have nothing to fear from this programme and that it is just another step in a bitter campaign to discredit me," Venables said.

Panorama alleged Venables obtained a one million pound (\$1.6 million) loan from finance company Landhurst leasing for the takeover by pledging assets of four pubs he did not own.

Rio embarrassed in Brazilian championship

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — For decades, Rio has taken pride in its soccer teams whose technical excellence somehow seemed to be their birthright.

Until now.

Rio club have been an embarrassment in this year's first-division championship. Worse, the city that gave Brazil "futebol" has seen the banner of soccer supremacy pass to archrival Sao Paulo.

Rio's "Big four" — Flamengo, Fluminense, Botafogo and Vasco — languish at or near the bottom of the standings as the tournament quarterfinalists begin to emerge.

Last weekend, the Rio teams hit bottom. All four teams lost their games — and Flamengo managed to drop two in a 48-hour span.

"The shame of Rio continues," read a headline Monday in the Rio daily O Dia.

The tailspin is a result of snowballing debts, mismanagement, bad trades and plain incompetence.

The fall perhaps has been hardest for Flamengo, Brazil's most popular team and a five-time national champion.

Brazil's World Cup champion team was a reunion of Flamengo veterans, among them Jorginho, Leonardo, Aldair, Bebeto and Zinho.

Today, Flamengo, with a record of 1 win, 2 ties and 4 losses, is tied with modest Parana for last place among eight teams in Group F.

The team lost 1-0 to Bahia, just 48 hours after a 3-0 loss to Sao Paulo. A tiny but angry crowd of 1,896 at Maracana stadium — 1 per cent of capacity — chanted "Flamengo is tradition, not humiliation."

After the game, club director made the standard crisis-control move — they fired the coach. Carlinhos was replaced by Edinho, a former all-star fullback with Fluminense and the Brazilian national team.

Other Rio clubs aren't doing much better.

Botafogo has the league's high scorer — centerforward Tulio, with 13 goals — and little else. The team is sixth among eight teams in Group F, just ahead of Flamengo.

Vasco, a two-time national champion, probably has the best chance of any Rio club. All-stars William, Bruno and Yan.

But so far, veteran coach Sebastiao Lazaroni hasn't done much with it. Vasco is in sixth place in Group E.

Fluminense, struggling with a team of youngsters, is even worse, the 1984 national champion is in last place in Group E.

Reynolds loses fight for \$27.4m

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Athletics star Birch Reynolds lost his Supreme Court fight Monday to pocket \$27.4 million from the IAAF — the sports world ruling body — which banned him for allegedly taking drugs.

It was a major victory for the IAAF, who barred Reynolds from taking part in the last Olympics in Barcelona two years ago.

IAAF president Primo Nebiolo said the decision "takes on special significance for the entire Olympic movement and the sporting world in general."

The justices turned down Reynolds' argument that a U.S. court had the authority to order the governing body of international track and field to pay damages for saying he tested positive for steroids.

"The U.S. judicial authorities have rightly recognised the jurisdictional rights of the IAAF in the world arena," Nebiolo said in a statement issued from Monte Carlo.

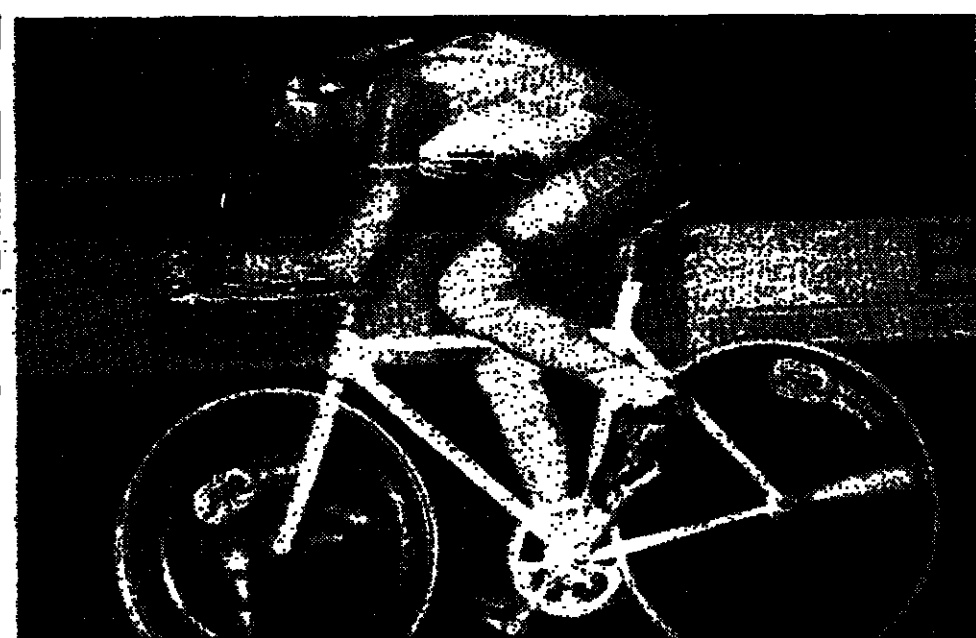
"There decision sets an important precedent for the authority of international sports governing bodies with regard to the involvement of civil courts in 'the Olympic movement and in sports-related matters.'"

"I believe the decision will also have very positive implications on the organisation of the Olympic Games in Atlanta."

Reynolds could not be reached to comment.

Reynolds, a gold and silver medalist in the 1988 Olympics, was suspended by the IAAF in 1990. The group said he tested positive for steroids after a track meet in Monte Carlo.

Promising a cash purse of



Swiss cyclist Tony Rominger practices on a new bicycle 31 October at the cycling stadium in Bordeaux, southwestern France. Rominger will try for a new world record in a few days, even though he set the current one only about two weeks ago (AFP photo)

Tour of China set for late 1995

BEIJING (R) — Organisers of next year's inaugural Tour of China pledged Tuesday that top world cyclists would join the globally televised race, but cautioned that pulling off such an ambitious event would be no joyride.

"It is a huge logistical challenge to stage a cycling event in China, especially as an American company," promoter Michael plant of medalist sports told a news conference in Beijing to announce the October-November 1995 race.

"We will be entertaining literally millions of spectators" in the key cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen as well as Hong Kong, Plant added.

Promising a cash purse of

\$250,000, Plant said American former world champion Lance Armstrong would be among top world cyclists pledging to ride in the tour.

Three-times Tour de France champion Greg Lemond, another American who is nearing retirement, will be on hand either as a rider or an adviser, he said.

Medalist has been a lead organiser of the Tour Dupont, the premier cycle race in the United States.

Plant and fellow promoters from Iles Asia of Hong Kong and parallel Media Group of London said they were capable of organising a seven-stage, 900-kilometre, multi-city Tour of China in concert with Chinese sports authorities.

"We are confident through our partnership, the great cooperation of Chinese officials and the immense experience gained through the tour dupont that we will be successful in designing a well-structured course and safe environment for cyclists," Plant said.

He gave no breakdown of race costs or how they would be covered.

Plant said with television rights for worldwide audiences — including 1.2 billion Chinese this was a "very specific marketing opportunity," for foreign and local sponsors, although he declined to give details about TV coverage.

Plant said he was still unable to identify lead sponsors.

NBA breaks for the border

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The National Basketball Association is bent on "world domination."

Not content to sell T-shirts, hats and television commercials in the United States, the NBA is branching out, with two new franchises awarded to Canadian cities and a surge of activity around the globe that will include the season's opening game in Japan.

The Los Angeles Clippers and the Portland Trailblazers will launch the 1994-95 season in Yokohama November 4 and will play again the next day.

By then, the NBA's missionaries will have taken their message to five countries with 11 pre-season games.

The Charlotte Hornets

European swing included games in Paris and Badalona, Spain, and nine other NBA teams played pre-season games in Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada.

"This is the most extensive and largest variety of teams and countries in our history," said we can count on even more in the future."

The Canadian clubs, the Vancouver Grizzlies and Toronto Raptors, come on board for the 1995-96 season.

NBA Commissioner David Stern made no secret of the fact that the move north is financially motivated.

"Why come to Canada?" Stern said in announcing approval of the Toronto franchise. "Why come to the largest unserved market on

the continent? There are 28 million sports fans in Canada, and that represents a great market. It's a spectacular opportunity."

In 1990, the NBA sold \$10 million worth of licensed goods in Canada, and that figure will certainly swell when Canadian fans have their own teams to cheer.

The exhibition and regular-season games in far-flung lands, where installing NBA clubs might prove impractical, are a way of boosting a following already turned on to the NBA by television.

The rise of NBA players from overseas, including Nigerian-born most valuable player Hakeem Olajuwon, has also boosted foreign inter-

Some of those players hope to use their success in the star-studded league to help out back home.

Zaire's Dikembe Mutombo joined New York Knicks star Patrick Ewing and Dream Team II's Alonzo Mourning this summer for the second annual NBA tour of South Africa.

The tour included clinics for players and coaches in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

"I'm glad to have another opportunity to see my people and share my experience and life with them, giving them a big hope," Mutombo said.

"Seeing African guys playing in the NBA has given them an inspiration."

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Imported galloper Jeune wins Melbourne Cup

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Irish-bred galloper Jeune gave Australian jockey Wayne Harris his greatest racing thrill with victory in the \$1.46 million Melbourne Cup Tuesday.

It was an emotional victory for Harris, whose life was threatened by brain tumour surgery several years ago.

"I can't believe it. It's everyone's dream. He travelled so well, he didn't pull for me and there were openings everywhere during the run," said Harris.

Jeune (16-1) — sired by Ireland's Kalaglow from

French mare Youthful — kicked away inside the final 400 metres (two furlongs) of the 3,200 metre Flemington racecourse, to beat Paris Lane (8-1) by one and three-quarters of a length.

Oompala (50-1) came in a half length away in third place.

Last year's winner, Ireland's Vintage Crop, the 5-1 favourite and in doubt in the lead-up to Australia's greatest horse race after gashing himself at trackwork, was seventh.

The six-year-old Jeune won last year's Hardwicke

Stakes over 2,400 metres at Royal Ascot in England before coming to Australia to be prepared by trainer David Hayes earlier this year.

Adelaide-based Hayes followed in the footsteps of his famous father Colin, who had won the Cup twice, with Beldale Ball in 1980 and At Talaq in 1986.

Paris Lane, the Caulfield Cup winner in record time last month, and Oompala battled it out for the minor placings, but made little impression on Jeune in the run to the post.

Barcelona meet Manchester United; AC Milan desperate for victory

LONDON (Agencies) — Two weeks after they fought out a thrilling 2-2 tie at Old Trafford, soccer giants Barcelona and Manchester United will meet again in the Champions' League Wednesday in an atmosphere worthy of the final itself.

With defending titlist AC Milan, shot on confidence as well as points, struggling to gain the quarterfinal, the Barcelona-Manchester United battle some 110,000 fans at Camp Nou is the biggest game of the 16-team tournament.

IFK Goteborg looks confident of gaining one of the quarterfinal places from the same group, so it's almost as if the final has come six months early.

"It will be disastrous," said Barcelona team captain Jose Maria Bakero, scorer of his team's second goal at Old Trafford.

A loss wouldn't be quite so bad for United, which is a point ahead but plays against without suspended French striker Eric Cantona. He will return for the next game against Goteborg.

Analysis of key elements of Wednesday's European Champions' League matches:

Group A
Barcelona (Spain) v Manchester United (England)

A 2-2 draw between the sides two weeks ago kept Manchester United at the top of the group and a victory for them at the Nou Camp would

victory over Galatasaray two weeks ago and IFK go into the match free of the burden of domestic league action following the end of the Swedish season.

Galatasaray's hopes are pinned on midfielder and captain Tugay Kerimoglu, back after a leg injury kept him out of the first match against IFK. Midfielder Suat Kaya scored a hat-trick as Galatasaray beat Denizlispor 4-0 at the weekend.

2-1 in Kiev, are the only side in the Champions' League with a 100 per cent record and will seal a place in the quarter-finals if they win again at the Parc Des Princes.

PSG expect to be without three injured first-teamers, striker David Ginola and the Brazilian pair, defender Ricardo Gomes and playmaker Valdo.

But Brazilian striker Rai has started to play well after a protracted poor spell and scored his fourth goal in as many games in Friday's 3-1 win over Montpellier.

Valery Minsky of Dynamo reported no serious injuries, though forward Sergei Rebrov and midfielder Pavel Skopchenko missed the latest training session due to slight problems.

Group C
Steaua Bucharest (Romania) v Benfica (Portugal)

Steaua, who lost 2-1 to Benfica in Lisbon, will be without as many as five regulars. Forward Marius Lacatus and Defenders Ionel Pirvu, Anton Dobos, sent off against Benfica, and midfielder Damian Militaru are all suspended while striker Adrian Ilie is doubtful because of an infected foot.

Benfica have no serious injuries or suspensions and start as favourites after some superb play in domestic action recently.

European Champions League

Wednesday, there are only two left in which it can make up the two points UEFA took from the red and blacks as punishment for a misbehavior in the game against Casino Salzburg a month ago.

The loss of those two points put Milan down to last in the Group D standings. It now is four points behind group leader Ajax Amsterdam and one behind AEC and Salzburg.

The Italian champion also is hampered by having to play its San Siro Stadium, where it would regularly attract 60,000 fans. That was another punishment handed out by UEFA over the San Siro incident in which a fan hurled a bottle, hitting Salzburg goalkeeper Otto Konrad.

Milan's fans go instead to 30,000-capacity Trieste, close to the border with Slovenia.

almost certainly see them through to the last eight.

United are still without suspended Frenchman Eric Cantona, who completes his four-match ban following this game.

Coach Alex Ferguson's selection plans have been hit by an ankle injury to Lee Sharpe that could keep the England winger out for up to a month.

Barcelona will be without suspended defender Miquel Angel Nadal whose place is likely to be taken by Abelardo Fernandez in a tactical switch. Barcelona came through their 1-1 draw away at Real Sociedad at the weekend without serious injury.

Group B
Bayern Munich (Germany) v Spartak Moscow (Russia)

Bayern, who scored a last-minute goal to force a 1-1 draw with Spartak in Moscow, will probably have to face Spartak without French striker Jean-Pierre Papin again.

Papin, 30, who has been injured for most of the season, suffered another injury to his right knee after briefly being cleared fit.

Spartak report no injuries or suspensions and they expect to field the same side that faced Bayern in Moscow which means Ramis Mamedov, sent off against PSG and suspended against Bayern, may have to settle for a place on the bench.

Paris St Germain (France) v Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine)

PSG, who beat Dynamo

Bangkok Games threatened as builders sacked

BANGKOK (AFP) — Bangkok's ability to stage the 1998 Asian Games, apparently secured by a multi-million dollar marketing deal last month, was threatened Tuesday when the main contractors were sacked.

The Thai Cabinet revoked building rights for Apipat Nakorn Company after the firm failed to secure for the project, government spokesman Abhisit Vejjajiva said.

The state-run Krung Thai Bank cancelled loans for the Apipat project because the company had not submitted any blueprints.

But Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai said: "I want to assure you that the Games can be organised in time."

Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Bantadtan said: "A few companies are still showing interest." But he added that the Thai government may have to construct the

complex itself through the National Housing Authority. Sports Authority of Thailand chief Therdpong Chaivanand would "try to explore alternatives" and get the project moving "immediately," Abhisit said.

Bangkok has yet to break ground on any facilities for the Games which it was awarded in 1990 in Beijing.

Last March, Olympic Committee of Asia (OCA) President Sheikh Ahmad Al Faisal Al Sabah said Bangkok risked losing the Games unless it began construction immediately.

There was still a big question mark hanging over Bangkok when the last Games were staged in Hiroshima last month.

But the OCA struck a \$50 million deal with the Olympic Games' marketing agents, ISL, a Swiss-based com-

pany which handles marketing for the International Olympic Committee, and the Japanese advertising firm Dentsu, which holds a majority stake in ISL, were to make a down payment of five million dollars to the Bangkok organisers.

They have guaranteed \$15 million in gross revenue and set a minimum target of \$50 million.

ISL will get 15 per cent of any revenue. Eighty per cent of the remaining profits will go to Bangkok. 10 per cent to national Olympic committees and 10 per cent to the OCA.

An OCA delegation is scheduled to visit Bangkok in January to assess progress.

And a bad report raises the possibility of the Games being switched to either Jakarta or Pusan. South Korea, which has bid for the event in 2002.

Barrios tries again for marathon prize

NEW YORK (AP) — Just like the New York City Marathon, which is undergoing a transformation following the death of long-time race director Fred Lebow, distance runner Arturo Barrios is experiencing "a new beginning" in his life.

The 31-year-old Barrios will be competing in Sunday's New York City Marathon for the first time as an American citizen. Barrios, competing for his native Mexico last year, finished third in 2 hours, 12 minutes, 21 seconds.

This time, he again is among the favourites, along with Vincent Rousseau of Belgium, 1992 New York Marathon champion Willie Mtolo of South Africa and 1991 winner Salvador Garcia of Mexico.

Barrios became an American citizen Sept. 16, and celebrated the next day by winning the U.S. 10-kilometre championship at Kingsport, Tennessee.

"This is a new starting point in my career," Barrios said. "I'm happy for what I did for Mexico. I set world records for the 10k, 20k and one-hour run on the track and a world best for 10k on the roads. Now, everything is behind me."

"I hope I can do the same for United States that I did for Mexico. I will try to break American records, then world records."

Running for Mexico, Barrios finished fifth at 10,000 metres in the 1988 and 1992 Olympics, and was the Pan-American Games gold medalist at 5,000 metres in 1987 and 1991. His problems with the Mexican Track Federation began when he was not reimbursed, as is common, for his expenses to the Barcelona Games.

Despite being assured that he would be paid, the money never came. Three months ago, at the Mexican championships, the angry Barrios walked off the track during the 5,000-metre race in protest.

Afterward, the Mexican federation removed him from the team for the 1994 World Half-Marathon Championships and the 1995 Pan-Am Games, and left in doubt his status for the 1995 World Championships and 1996 Olympics.

Disheartened by such treatment, Barrios decided to apply for U.S. citizenship. It was not a rash decision.

After all, he had been living in the United States since 1981 and had earned a mechanical engineering degree from Texas A and M University. His wife, Joy, and their 3-year-old twins are American citizens, and for six years, he has sponsored a 10k race at Chula Vista, Calif., where he has donated \$27,500 to a new library, a section of which is being named in his honour.

"I had so many problems in Mexico, I couldn't concentrate on my training," Barrios said. "Now, I am relaxed. I have peace of mind. I have no problems with the federation."

"I am training like everyone else to go to the Olympics, the World Championships and the Pan-American Games. Before, I was pre-selected for a team. Now, I have to go to the trials. It's a fair system."

Williams smashing in pro debut

OAKLAND (R) — Fourteen-year-old Venus Williams was smashing in her professional tennis debut in the first round of the \$400,000 bank of the west classic on Monday, beating 58th-ranked fellow American Shaun Stafford 6-3, 6-4.

Williams, a California native who has not played in a

tournament since she was 11 years old, dispelled any doubts about her toughness and talent when at 5-4 in the second set she served out the match at love, icing the match with an unreturnable serve to Stafford's backhand.

The 6-foot-1 teenager then lifted her arms in victory and jumped up and down.

"This is very close to the happiest day of my life," said Williams. "I wasn't sure what to expect. It was a lot more fun than I thought it would be."

"It felt awful to lose to a 14-year-old," said the 26-year-old Stafford.

"Nobody really knew much about her, but she did very well. It was great to see her so happy. She has a lot of spirit on the court. It is good to see her ready to play with the pros."

Williams faces the indoor tournament's top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain Wednesday night. Sanchez Vicario is one of four players in the 28-player draw to receive a first-round bye.

Williams received a wildcard entry to this tournament, along with 16-year-old American Meilen Tu.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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PLAY OR DEFEND?

Neither vulnerable South deals

NORTH
♠ A J 8 4
♥ 7 5 3 2
♦ 7 6 4
♣ A J

EAST
♠ 9 8 5
♥ J 7 5
♦ A K Q 10
♣ 10 8 5

WEST
♠ K J 9
♥ 10 8 5
♦ K J 9
♣ 10 8 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 8 2
♥ 8 6
♦ K 9 2
♣ A Q 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ 2♦ 3♥ 4♠
Pass 2♣ 2♦ 2♥
4♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Study the hands in the diagram. Would you rather play or defend four spades after West cashes the ace and king of hearts and continues with the queen?

Note that contrary to what many believe a redouble does not deny a fit for opener's suit, although that could easily be the case. Without sophisticated methods, it is the only way to show a hand of 10 points or better with support and North's two bids in this sequence confirmed a

minimum with at least three spades. South needed no further encouragement.

Obviously, the problem is to avoid losing two club tricks. The simple way is to draw trumps and try the club finesse. Not good enough. Slightly more convoluted is to attempt the diamond hook. No better.

Far superior is to cash the ace and king of diamonds, then ruff a diamond and ruff a heart high. Draw trumps ending in dummy and lead a club. If East plays low, insert the right. West can win cheaply, but then must either lead a club into your ace-queen tenace or else concede a ruff sluff.

Unfortunately, East can ruin this elegant plan by inserting the ten of clubs when the suit is led. West will be able to win and exit safely with a club. Down one.

The best plan after drawing trumps and eliminating diamonds is to lead the table's best heart. If East produces the remaining heart (impossible on the auction), you will have to fall back on the club finesse. But when East shows out, discard a club from hand and West is truly endplayed. A club is into your tenace and a diamond gives you a ruff. Making four-odd.

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November Programme

November 2, Wednesday 7pm	Wild West (video)
November 9, Wednesday 7pm	Life in the Freezer (video) Part 1
November 15, Tuesday 7.30pm	Lecture Hamed El-Said The IMF/WB Stabilisation and Structural adjustment: The Case of Jordan
November 16, Wednesday 7pm	Life in the Freezer (video) Part 2
November 23, Wednesday 7pm	Yes, Prime Minister (video)
November 30, Wednesday 7pm	The Body in the Library (video)

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Leslie Nielsen & Priscilla Presley in Naked Gun 33 1/3 The Final Insult		Lou Diamond Phillips & Scott Glenn — in Extreme Justice		CONCORD "1" Disco — Disco (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" SPEED Shows: 3:15, 5:15		Presents: Children's theatre "MARZOUK AND THE MAGIC LAMP" at 10 a.m. For reservation call tel: 618274-618275	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG" Theater Close Sunday and Monday	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq arrests suspects in journalists' hold-up

BAGHDAD (R) — Police have arrested several men believed to have held up and robbed a group of journalists on a government-organised trip to southern Iraq, an official source said on Tuesday. The source did not say how many had been arrested. They were being questioned on the whereabouts of the rest of the gang, he said. A total of 26 items were recovered, including cameras, lenses, batteries, films and cables. Journalists from Reuters, Agence France-Presse and CNN were among 35 Iraqi and foreign reporters travelling on an information Ministry bus when it was held up by gunmen on the way to Basrah, about 600 kilometres south of Baghdad, on Oct. 10. The bandits beat the journalists, robbed them of money, passports and other possessions, and ordered some to strip.

Arafat announces free trade zone in Gaza

CASABLANCA (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat announced Tuesday the creation of a Palestinian port and free trade zone in the autonomous Gaza Strip. Mr. Arafat made the announcement during the closing ceremony of the Casablanca economic summit here. He said there would be a "port at Gaza, on the Mediterranean Sea, next to which will be created a free trade zone." The zone would be run "in accordance with principles adopted by this economic conference." Mr. Arafat did not say when work would start on the port or how it would be financed. In his speech he also stressed the need to secure "comprehensive and equitable" peace between Israel and the Palestinians, in an area where "the three revealed religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism, can talk and live side by side."

Nationalist former general arrested in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — A former general and an outspoken Iranian nationalist was arrested here Monday after having openly criticised the Islamic government, opposition sources told AFP Tuesday. Azollah Amir Rahimi, 75, wrote an open letter to the authorities in September in which he condemned summary executions ordered by revolutionary courts and called for political reforms. He also urged the formation of a "national salvation government." Mr. Rahimi is known for his criticism of the way the government fought the 1980-1988 war with Iraq. He was also an outspoken opponent of the imperial regime and was jailed several times.

Israeli with passion for Mrs. Clinton abandons wife

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli shopkeeper decided to divorce his wife because he fell in love with U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton, the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot reported. The 40-year-old Tel Aviv merchant, a father of four, fell madly in love with Hillary in January 1993, when Bill Clinton took office, his wife told the rabbinical court in Tel Aviv where the divorce suit was filed. The love-struck husband started collecting any publications which mentioned his idol or showed her picture. "In the beginning I treated my husband's strange hobby as a joke, confident that it would pass," the wife explained. "But a month ago things got worse. He asked me to dye my hair blonde, and not just any blonde — it had to be 'Hillary's blonde' and the right style, too." When it was announced that Mr. Clinton would visit Israel "he totally lost control," she said. The shopkeeper followed the presidential couple's every movement in Jerusalem, waiting for hours outside the King David Hotel where they were staying, just to catch a glimpse of his "true love." After the U.S. president and his wife left, he told me he was deeply depressed and could no longer live with me," the wife told the court.

Military to interrogate Mahfouz attackers

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian military prosecutors are expected to send 13 suspected Muslim militants to trial in a military court in connection with an attack on Nobel-prize winning author Naguib Mahfouz, security sources said on Tuesday. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak issued a decree authorising the military to interrogate the men, the sources said, adding that the questioning is expected to begin on Saturday. Once they are charged, the men will stand trial and could face a maximum penalty of death. Mr. Mahfouz, whom militants have described as an infidel, was stabbed on Oct. 14, six years after the writer became the first Arab to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Bomb hoax forces plane back to Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — An Austrian Airline passenger plane returned to Cairo shortly after take-off Tuesday when someone called the airline's Vienna office to say there was a bomb on board, airport security officials said. The 25 passengers and seven crew members were evacuated after the craft landed, but a search revealed no bomb, the sources said on condition of anonymity. The plane, an MD82 which can carry 137 passengers, resumed its trip three hours later. Last week, a similar call from an unidentified person forced a plane of the German airline Lufthansa to return to Cairo airport. No bomb was found then either.

S. Arabia releases 19 Filipino prisoners

RIVADH (AP) — King Fahd pardoned 19 Filipino prisoners, including 12 Muslims, their ambassadors here said Tuesday. Ambassador Romulo M. Espaldon said that the group were freed from jail and repatriated Monday. They had been charged with minor crimes, and included some women. The amnesty followed a visit to Saudi Arabia earlier this month by President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines. He reportedly pleaded for clemency for more than 1,500 of his countrymen imprisoned in the kingdom on various charges. There are more than 500,000 Filipinos among Saudi Arabia's one-million-strong expatriate community. Those released included seven mothers and their children. They had been sentenced to four years in prison each for harboring Filipino suspects in the recent murder of two Saudi policemen in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah.

Libya tightens controls at border with Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — Libya has tightened controls at its borders on the entry of Tunisians and Algerians, travellers said on Tuesday. The Libyan Health Ministry ordered the measures because of reports of cholera cases in Tunisia and Algeria, the official Libyan news agency IANA said on Sunday. "I saw tens of Tunisians and Algerians refused entry in Libya during the weekend. It is almost impossible for Tunisian and Algerian travellers to enter Libya," a Tunisian businessman said. The Tunisian Health Ministry denied there was a cholera epidemic.

Arab population grows faster than Jewish

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Jerusalem's Arab population grew faster than the Jewish population last year, according to figures published Tuesday by the municipality. The study by the city's planning department showed that Jews were 72.1 per cent of the population in 1992, and dropped to 71.7 per cent by the close of 1993. Municipal spokeswoman Aliza Krissat said that non-Jews, a category predominated by the city's Palestinians, were 27.9 per cent of the population in 1992, and up to 28.3 per cent last year. In all, Jerusalem's population in 1993 numbered 567,147. Of these 406,371 were Jews, and 160,776 non-Jews, she said. The Jerusalem Post daily said that Jews were 74.2 per cent of Jerusalem's population in 1967. That year Arabs numbered 25.8 per cent of the population, the newspaper said. The newspaper suggested that one reason for a drop in the Jewish population was increasing migration, noting that more than 6,000 Jews left Jerusalem in 1993 and 5,368 in 1992.

Rabin sets terms for Lebanon pullout

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday branded non-existent a U.N. resolution which calls for a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, but he nonetheless outlined conditions for an Israeli pullout.

United Nations Resolution 425 of 1978 urged for an immediate and total withdrawal and respect for Lebanese sovereignty. "The Lebanese regime is again trying to apply 425," Mr. Rabin told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, said a spokesman for the closed door meeting. "For me the resolution does not exist," Mr. Rabin said.

But he outlined three conditions for a withdrawal in the framework of a peace agreement: — Satisfactory security arrangements; — An association between Israel's Lebanese militia and the official Lebanese army; — Gradual implementation of the agreement.

Mr. Rabin added that he had asked the United States to pressure Beirut into deploying thousands of soldiers in the south to dismantle the Iranian-backed Hizbollah movement, which spearheads anti-Israeli attacks.

"I would then agree to negotiate total normalisation with Lebanon," he said, adding, however, that Beirut could not take a decision without the support of Syria which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon.

The comments came a day after he described as "interesting" Beirut's offer of a six-month ceasefire in return for a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

"It's an interesting proposal as long as the Lebanese do not demand a prior Israeli commitment to withdraw within six months," the prime minister said on Monday.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi announced Sunday he was ready to accept an Israeli initiative to set up a joint commission to negotiate a timetable for withdrawal from the 850-square kilometre "security zone."

"If Israel agrees to withdraw, he's promising us security," Mr. Rabin said Tuesday. "My aim is a peace

agreement with Lebanon, not just security arrangements." Mr. Rabin went on to say that Hizbollah had carried out 50 per cent more operations so far this year compared with the first 11 months of last year.

Hizbollah guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb explosion in South Lebanon Tuesday, wounding an Israeli-affiliated militiaman amid artillery duels in the volatile region.

Lebanese security sources said the blast occurred as a militia patrol of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) drove near the village of Shoumar-iyeh on the edge of the central sector of an Israeli-occupied border enclave.

Israeli gunners and SLA militiamen retaliated by pounding the outskirts of the villages of Zawar and Majdal Sim facing Shoumar-iyeh with howitzer fire, said the sources.

The explosion came a few hours after guerrillas of Hizbollah blasted the Hamra outpost in the Israeli-held enclave with rockets and mortars at 9:15 a.m. (0715 GMT).

The sources said the attackers fired 10 mortar shells and three Katyusha rockets on Hamra, a gateway that links the occupied enclave with the rest of South Lebanon.

The crossing on the coastal highway halfway between the southern port city of Tyre and the Lebanese border with Israel is in the western sector of the enclave Israel calls a "security zone."

Israeli troops and SLA fighters responded with mortar barrages on the outskirts of Majdal Zoun, a village facing the Hamra gateway controlled by Nepalese troops serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon.

A U.N. officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said one mortar round crashed near a Nepalese position, causing no damage or casualties.

Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the attack. It carried escalated violence on the last active Arab-Israeli war front into a seventh straight day since U.S. President Clinton made his first visit to the Middle East last week.

Israel hopes for Oman, Qatar ties

CASABLANCA (AFP) — Israel will soon launch official ties with Oman and Qatar after breaking down barriers at the Casablanca economic summit, according to a member of Israel's delegation.

Israel has also established contacts with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates during the three-day conference, the official said on condition of anonymity.

"This conference has led to a new improvement in relations between Israel and these two countries (Oman and Qatar) which should lead to the establishment of official ties in the next few weeks," he said.

The news came as the United States said it hoped for a

complete end to the Arab boycott on Israel at the next meeting of the Arab League.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the economic boycott was a "relic of the past" as Israeli and Arab businessmen sat down to talk business together at the unprecedented conference here.

Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE, as well as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, decided a month ago to lift a indirect boycott on companies trading with Israel.

But the direct boycott, imposed by the Arab League in 1951, remains in place.

Israeli Foreign Minister

(Continued on page 7)

Hamas gets weapons through Jordan and Egypt — Rabin

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday that the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas ships arms into the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Egypt and Jordan.

"Hamas weapons come into the territories from Egypt and Jordan," Mr. Rabin told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

"The Egyptians do their best to halt the flow but the Jordanians are more efficient," he said.

Funds for the fundamentalists also come from Jordan, as well as Europe and the United States, a spokesman quoted Mr. Rabin as saying.

A senior military intelligence official, who was not named by the spokesman, told the committee that Hamas had a command centre in Jordan.

Gaza and Jericho now to avoid Israeli incursions.

Hamas men shot dead two people in a Jerusalem street on Oct. 9, the same day an Israeli soldier was kidnapped. He died along with three kidnappers and an army captain in an Israeli assault.

A Hamas suicide bomber blew up a Tel Aviv bus on Oct. 19, killing himself and 22 others.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal on Monday did not rule out negotiating with moderates from Hamas.

Mr. Shahal said that there were more moderate streams within the Muslim fundamentalist group that Israel may try to cultivate.

"I do not completely rule out the possibility that we will try, in some way, to create a situation where we would encourage those who support dialogue," the police minister told members of the ruling Labour Party.



King Hassan II of Morocco (centre) chairs the final session of Moroccan President Ion Iliescu economic summit in Casablanca (AFP photo)

Palestinians say they raised \$1b capital in Casablanca

CASABLANCA (AFP) — Palestinian businessmen abroad and in the self-rule areas have raised \$1 billion for investment, an official said Tuesday.

"The appeal launched by president Yasser Arafat to businessmen from the diaspora was heard," said Hanna Siniora, head of the Palestinian-European Union Chamber of Commerce.

There will be a billion dollars of private capital invested in the occupied territories.

Mr. Siniora was speaking on the sidelines of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in the Moroccan city of Casablanca.

"The capital will be mobilised through several funds, including the Palestinian Investment Company (PADI-CO)," he said.

PADI-CO has a capital of \$400 million including \$200 million from Palestinians abroad and \$200 million from Palestinians in the territories,

he said. "Together they will set up joint companies," Mr. Siniora added.

"This conference allowed us to mount this financial operation thanks to the participation of 35 businessmen from abroad and 25 from at home."

He said \$12 billion would be necessary over the next five years to get the Palestinian economy off the ground.

"Just less than a third of will come from countries which pledged more than two billion dollars of aid, and the rest from Palestinians and Arab countries."

Mr. Arafat told international businessmen here Monday he would give them "maximum guarantees" if they invested in the Gaza Strip or West Bank.

His message was mainly addressed to Palestinians at home and in the diaspora, on whom he said he could depend.

"Your homeland is in need of you. Your children need

you. "But don't come alone, we need your friends and then we can have not just Palestinian businessmen but joint ventures," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Siniora also blasted the delay by international donors in unblocking funds.

Palestinians say the World Bank has released less than 10 per cent of \$720 million of emergency funding promised for 1994.

He added all development projects presented by Israel at the Casablanca summit "will remain a dream until Israel decides to withdraw from all occupied territories, including the Golan Heights and South Lebanon."

The transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinians on the West Bank was "three months late because of Israeli intransigence."

Israel announced here Sunday it was ready to transfer health, welfare, tourism and taxation powers to the Palestinians.

Palestinians get joint control of bridge crossing from Jordan

KING HUSSEIN BRIDGE (Agencies) — Israel ceded shared control of the King Hussein Bridge crossing from the West Bank into Jordan to the Palestinians on Tuesday in line with the autonomy agreement.

A day after the Palestinian flag was raised at the Rafah border post between the autonomous Gaza Strip and Egypt, a similar brief ceremony was held at the bridge over the River Jordan.

Israeli General Aryeh Shiffman shook hands with Palestinian Brigadier General Ziyad Al Atrash at the border terminal on the edge of the self-rule enclave of Jericho.

"I am very pleased this is another step on the road to peace," Gen. Atrash told reporters.

Some 60 Palestinian police and officials in passport, customs and security departments were to begin work at the terminal on Wednesday, a day after their colleagues at Rafah.

According to the May 4 Cairo autonomy agreement between Israel and the Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Israel retains final control over the borders.

The two border posts now have one channel for Palestinian travellers to the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho and another for those living in the occupied West Bank, while foreigners will use a third channel operated by Israel.

Meanwhile, elections to a Palestinian council to run autonomy will not be held this year, conceded Saeb Erakat, the Palestine National Authority (PNA) minister organising the vote, who blamed Israel for the delay.

Under the autonomy agreement the elections were to be staged by July 13 following an Israeli army redeployment on the West Bank.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat demanded that the ballot take place in early November, despite the slow pace of negotiations with Israel on the next stages of self-rule.

"We will not be able to hold the vote before the end

of the year as we would like," Dr. Erakat told AFP.

Negotiations on the format for elections and the powers and size of the council are not due to resume in Cairo until next Sunday.

Israel demands that such detail be finalised before talks start on the redeployment of troops outside built-up Palestinian areas on the West Bank in line with the declaration of principles for autonomy signed in September last year.

"We have asked the Israeli side to hold parallel negotiations not one issue after the other," Dr. Erakat said referring to elections and redeployment.

Under the declaration, Israel is to devolve power over taxation, education, social welfare, health and tourism to the Palestinians on the West Bank before the redeployment.

Only responsibility for education has been handed over so far, with Israel arguing the Palestinians still do not have money to run the other departments.

Blast kills 5 children day after Zeroual announces elections

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A bomb attack killed five children and injured 17 other people as they took part in Martyrs' Day commemorations in the west of the Algerian, wracked by a bloody Islamic extremist campaign.

It came one day after President Liamine Zeroual announced that a presidential election will take place by the end of 1995.

The broadcast announcement, which would cut Mr. Zeroual's term by at least one year, appeared to be a gesture by the military-backed government to Muslim fundamentalists robbed of an election victory in January 1992.

The conflict has left more than 11,000 people dead, including 68 foreigners, and cost billions of dollars.

The bomb killed five Muslim scouts in the part of a cemetery where some of their predecessors are buried in Mostaganem, 280 kilometres west of Algiers.

close to the security services said.

The bomb attack was the first directly to target children since Muslim fundamentalists began waging a guerrilla campaign against the army-backed regime in January 1992.

Security officials said another bomb exploded, slightly injuring a veteran of the 1954-62 war of liberation in the Karimia cemetery in Algiers.

The violence continued as the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) warned that it would increase, despite Monday's bid to ease tension by President Zeroual.

Anwar Haddam, the leader of FIS members who won seats in parliament in the first round of general elections in December 1991 before the army cancelled the poll, issued the warning in an interview with the Paris-based radio France Info.

"There will be no election, that's a promise. There can be no election in these conditions."

"Unfortunately, we interpret Mr. Zeroual's (broadcast) speech as an admission of failure, in the fact that he ruled out any continuation of negotiations with the FIS," Haddam said.

Mr. Zeroual, who on Tuesday went to the graves of victims of the independence war in the Martyrs' Sanctuary at Riadh Al Feth in Algiers, had pledged to hold the election but also to pursue "the eradication of terrorism and violence."

Addressing the nation on the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the war of independence, he repeated charges that the leaders of the FIS were playing a dual game in demanding talks but also seeking to "consolidate extremism and encouraging

"He (Zeroual) knows perfectly well that there can be

COLUMN

Hollywood Madam steals limelight from Simpson

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Sex among the stars stole the limelight from the O.J. Simpson trial here Monday as jury selection in the case of Heidi Fleiss, the "Hollywood Madam," began across the hall from the double murder hearings. Ms. Fleiss, 28, faces up to 12 years in prison on charges of pandering — providing prostitutes to clients — and selling or transporting cocaine. The so-called Hollywood Madam allegedly ran a high-prices international prostitution ring, catering to movie stars and wealthy businessmen for up to \$1,500 per encounter. Surprisingly, according to police at least some of the clients paid by check, some of them to the tune of \$10,000 at a time, laying a paper trail which has provided evidence for further charges against Ms. Fleiss of money laundering, which are to be heard later. Proceedings in the California case began Monday with the 65 prospective jurors being asked to fill out a 15-page list of questions. They were told to complete them by the end of the day and lawyers in the case will begin actual jury selection next Monday. Ms. Fleiss said repeatedly after her arrest 14 months ago that the world would be shocked by some of the names on her client list, which she said included not only Hollywood stars but studio executives, policemen and even foreign leaders. But few names have been forthcoming. Actor Michael Douglas has been identified, but only as the owner of a house Ms. Fleiss and her father allegedly bought with the ill-gotten gains of the prostitution racket. In addition to the pandering and drugs charges in California, Ms. Fleiss and her 60-year-old father, a prominent Los Angeles pediatrician, face a separate trial on federal charges of money laundering, bank fraud and conspiracy.

Paraglider circles over the Tokyo imperial palace

TOKYO (AFP) — A 51-year-old Tokyo man flew around the imperial palace here in a paraglider, prompting a police helicopter chase, in what he called a publicity stunt for a book, police officials said. Palace guards spotted the paraglider, a propeller-powered parachute, at around 1:30 p.m., immediately alerting the Metropolitan Police Department. After circling over the palace in central Tokyo, the paraglider flew off for some 10 kilometres to an empty lot in the northeast of the city, trailed by a police helicopter, police officials said.

The man, whose name was withheld, was not charged because paragliders are not regulated by the existing civil aeronautics law, the officials said. He allegedly told police that he pulled the stunt to advertise a book he has written and just published at his own expense. Police said his parachute, 11 metres wide, carried the title and publisher of the book. The book was entitled as The 2,000-year-old mystery has been debunked but its contents were not immediately available.

Emile Zola's classic undergoes name change

AUCKLAND (AFP) — A French film of Emile Zola's classic "Germinal" has had its name changed in New Zealand because its distributor here believes it could be associated with Germans and concentration camps, the New Zealand Herald reported Tuesday.

Germinal, starring Gerard Depardieu, is instead being called Un Homme, One Among Us. The Herald says the film opens with the title Germinal but all the local advertising uses the New Zealand devised name. Distributors Everard Films spokesman Mark Croft said they wanted to give the film "a different look because the publicity work was so grim. If we had gone out with the original title, no one would have come. We looked at what we could call it and decided that to remain faithful to the original, we would give it a French title."

At least 13 people were killed and about 100 injured in a massive explosion which rocked the city of Algiers on Tuesday night. The explosion, which occurred in the central district of the city, was caused by a gas leak. The death toll is expected to rise as more bodies are recovered from the rubble. The explosion also caused significant damage to the city's infrastructure, including the collapse of several buildings. The cause of the explosion is still under investigation.

Volume 18 Number 574

Israelis find antiquities near border

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli soldiers have found ancient pottery and other antiquities near the border with Lebanon. The findings were made during a routine patrol. The antiquities are believed to be from the Bronze Age. The Israeli Antiquities Authority is currently investigating the findings.

TEL AVIV (AP) — A former general and an outspoken Iranian nationalist was arrested here Monday after having openly criticised the Islamic government, opposition sources told AFP Tuesday.

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